



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

May 29, 2025

The Honorable Sharp-Collins
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 785 (Sharp-Collins)—Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program

Dear Assemblymember Sharp-Collins,

On Behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City strongly supports AB 785, which would establish the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program within the Board of State and Community Corrections. Community Violence Interdiction Grand funding would be used to support programs that preemptively reduce violence, such as strategic recreational opportunities during peak occurrences of violence, youth diversion programs, and public health services that address youth trauma.

The City has a long history of partnering with community-based organizations to address the root causes of violence in neighborhoods and school environments. The Long Beach Advancing Peace Initiative uses a systems-level approach to promote peace in all corners of the City, by creating social connectedness, supporting economic opportunity, building safe and healthy neighborhoods, and embracing trauma-informed systems. The City has worked with dedicated nonprofits to launch several programs including Safe Passage, to make walking to and from school safer, Long Beach Activating Safe Communities, which helped implement the Gun Violence Response Protocol, and the Healing Response service to share valuable resources to victims of violence and their families.

AB 785 will allow the City and community-based organizations to continue investing in violence prevention work, ensuring youth across the state feel safe and empowered in their own communities. For these reasons, the City supports AB 785.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District