



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

August 10, 2018

Chair Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 2544 (Lackey): Parking Violations

Dear Chair Portantino:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to oppose Assembly Bill 2544 (Lackey). The bill seeks to preempt cities from collecting unpaid parking citations regardless of the date on which the ticket was issued unless the city is fully compliant with AB 503; a bill that was just enacted last year.

For background, the City of Long Beach, along with other major California cities worked closely with Assemblymember Lackey on AB 503 to develop a parking citation payment plan for indigent recipients of parking citations. While Long Beach began the process with several concerns, we were able to reach consensus on a proposal after much collaboration and input from local government and Assemblymember Lackey's Office. AB 503 (Lackey) represented a difficult compromise for all and was negotiated in good faith. The program start date was negotiated to July 1, 2018, with the specific understanding that the program would apply to all qualifying individuals beginning July 1, 2018. A retroactive application to parking citations before July 1, 2018 (as proposed by AB 2544) would have not been agreed to and is very problematic.

In effect, AB 2544 would require cities to rescind parking citations that have previously been sent for itemization to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In Fiscal Year 17, Long Beach paid \$212,067 in itemization fees to the DMV, and going forward Long Beach expects this amount will increase due to the \$1 increase per citation that became effective January 2018. The issuance and collection of parking citation revenues is essential to maintaining parking and curb space along local streets and roads as they were intended, whether that be for stormwater management, firefighting, and even availability of parking spots designed as ADA parking. While Long Beach has and will continue to support the spirit of AB 503, the City remains opposed to the amendment that makes AB 503 retroactive.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach opposes AB 2544 (Lackey).

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District