



CITY OF MURRIETA

July 13, 2023

The Honorable Steven Bradford
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7210
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 50 (Bradford): Vehicles: Enforcement
City of Murrieta – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Senator Bradford:

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, I would like to express our respectful opposition for Senate Bill 50, which prohibits peace officers from initiating a traffic stop for specified low-level infractions unless a separate, independent basis for a stop exists, or if more than one low-level infraction is observed. SB 50 states that a violation of these provisions is not grounds for a defendant to move for return of property or to suppress evidence and authorizes local authorities to enforce traffic violations through the use of non-sworn government employees. We want to keep our community safe, and the provisions in SB 50 add barriers to that goal.

The Murrieta Police Department's goal is to keep our community safe and prides itself in hiring professional law enforcement officers. Our officers conduct a variety of legal stops and detentions on motorists in our community every day. Some of those stops involve minor traffic infractions that are violations of the vehicle code. Minor traffic violations like missing plates, broken windshields, and inoperable tail lamps are safety concerns for the driving community. Those equipment violations, if not fixed, lend themselves to potentially serious traffic collisions. Other stops and detentions conducted by law enforcement might be related to investigative reasons, dictated, and guided by reasonable suspicion and probable cause. Our officers' training, experience, and expertise are key skills used to fight crime and protect victims of crime.

Stops and detentions made by law enforcement are required to be based on legal authorities guided by the US Constitution and California law. Protections California motorists enjoy against illegal stops and detentions already exist. Provisions in SB 50 jeopardize public safety, undermine the rule of law, and reduce accountability for low-level infractions. For these reasons, the City of Murrieta respectfully opposes SB 50.

Sincerely,

Lisa DeForest
Mayor