



CITY OF MURRIETA

May 23, 2019

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly, District 17
California State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 516 (Chiu) Authority to Remove Vehicles - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Chiu,

The City of Murrieta respectfully opposes AB 516, a measure that would eliminate the ability for the City to adequately enforce state and local vehicle violations. Specifically, the legislation continues to erode local control and places a significant burden onto our business community as well as our residents' quality of life. If enacted, this legislation would allow any vehicle to park for essentially any length of time in the City, and would give the Murrieta Police Department very little recourse to remove it due to expired registration.

While the legislation at first glance appears noble in its intent to shield those who are suffering financially, the unintended consequence is that it empowers a small population to flaunt the law. Sure, vehicles could continue to be cited for expired tags, but there would be very little recourse for those choosing not to pay citations or register their vehicles. Among those living in their vehicles, this could be common. The City of Murrieta has seen an increase of homeless individuals and families living in their vehicles. This type of living arrangement, especially among family units, is not healthy, sanitary, or safe. Children cannot be prepared for a full day of classes in elementary school while living full time in a parked vehicle in a shopping center or residential neighborhood. The City of Murrieta has worked diligently to address homelessness, co-founding the Regional Homeless Alliance (RHA) with five cities in Southwest Riverside County. During the latest Point in Time Count, while our County experienced a 21% increase in homelessness, yet all five cities of the RHA reported a decrease in homelessness, and the region's homeless decreased by 12%. Most impressive was that these numbers were reported when our cities dedicated more volunteers and personnel to the count than in any previous year, meaning our results are contrary to what is being experienced in Orange County, San Bernardino County, and the rest of Riverside County. Our success is due in large part because the RHA uses a collaborative approach between five cities that includes input from law enforcement, park rangers, city managers offices, working alongside the nonprofit community. Removing our ability to enforce deprives our region of the tools necessary to get individuals to the assistance they need. So while this legislation attempts to be compassionate, the end result will be a continued effort to maintain homelessness rather than solve the complex problem.

AB 516 may be well intentioned, but it actually creates unintended consequences that could be detrimental to our community. Furthermore, it continues to erode local control. For these reasons, the City of Murrieta is opposed to AB 516.

Sincerely,



Kelly Seyarto
Mayor

Cc. Murrieta City Council
Senator Jeff Stone
Assembly Member Melissa Melendez
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities Public Affairs Manager
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