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CITY OF LOMITA

May 21, 2025

The Honorable Ash Kalra
1021 O Street, Suite 4610
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 1022 (Kalra) – Vehicles: Towing and Impoundment for Unpaid Parking Violations

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

On behalf of the City of Lomita, I am writing to respectfully express our **opposition to Assembly Bill 1022 (Kalra)**, which would prohibit local jurisdictions from towing or immobilizing a vehicle solely based on multiple unpaid parking citations. While the City of Lomita supports policies that offer flexibility and equity to low-income individuals, AB 1022 would unduly restrict local enforcement authority, compromise public safety, and hinder the City's ability to manage limited parking resources effectively.

Under existing law, a vehicle may be towed after accumulating five or more unpaid parking citations. This authority is used judiciously and only in cases where a vehicle owner has repeatedly failed to address violations. AB 1022 would eliminate this tool, removing any meaningful consequence for persistent violators and weakening our ability to maintain compliance with parking regulations that are essential to the safety, accessibility, and quality of life in our community.

The bill disregards the extensive safeguards for low-income individuals, including state-mandated payment plans, fine reductions, and fee waivers. These options ensure that those facing financial hardship are not penalized without access to fair and affordable alternatives. AB 1022 will remove one of the few remaining enforcement mechanisms available to cities—one that is critical for managing chronic offenders and deterring disregard for the law.

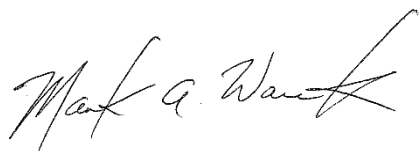
Moreover, this legislation would impose fiscal and administrative burdens on local governments. Without the authority to enforce collection through towing, cities will see increased citation delinquency, and added costs associated with extended enforcement efforts.

Lastly, AB 1022 represents a concerning shift toward statewide mandates that erode local control. Cities must retain flexibility to respond to the unique needs of their residents and communities. A one-size-fits-all prohibition fails to recognize the diverse conditions and enforcement challenges that cities across California face.

For these reasons, the City of Lomita strongly opposes AB 1022 and urges the Legislature to preserve local control and the ability of cities to enforce traffic and parking laws in a manner that is both fair and effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our City Manager, Andrew Vialpando at a.vialpando@lomitacity.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Waronek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark A. Waronek
Mayor
City of Lomita

cc:

Lomita City Council

Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager via email jkiernan@calcities.org League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org

California Contract Cities Association, jorge@contractcities.org