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CITY OF LOMITA

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Matt Haney
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 16 (Blakespear) Ending Street Homelessness Act
Notice of OPPOSITION (As Amended 06/23/2025)

Dear Assembly Member Haney,

The City of Lomita must respectfully **oppose SB 16 (Blakespear)**, which would impose several significant new requirements on the state's flagship homelessness grant program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program.

For years, cities have urged state leaders to invest a minimum of \$1 billion in ongoing flexible funding for the HHAP program. Federal and state reports tell us that targeted and **sustained** funding leads to decreases in homelessness. With a permanent, reliable funding source, cities would be better positioned to meet the goals outlined in SB 16, developing long-term solutions to help our most vulnerable residents.

Unfortunately, SB 16 was introduced at the tail end of the legislative session and in the midst of budget negotiations. The City of Lomita is disappointed that this year's state budget cuts HHAP funding by half and will not fully allocate new funding until the next fiscal year. The implications of these cuts are potentially devastating, with California's largest cities projecting the loss of 3,250 shelter beds, reduced outreach services for over 12,500 individuals, and stalled development for over 2,250 housing units as a direct consequence.

Given these circumstances, the City of Lomita does not believe that now is the right time to advance legislation that proposes a major overhaul of the HHAP program and creates new long-term planning goals without a commitment to long-term funding. SB 16 introduces significant programmatic changes tied directly to the state budget process, and more time is needed to carefully assess and work through the details. The City of Lomita would appreciate the author and sponsors taking time this fall to engage with stakeholders on SB 16 and return next year with a proposal that ensures the success of the HHAP program for years to come.

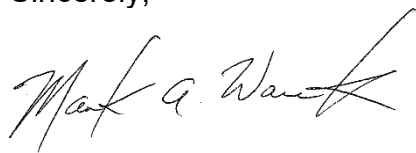
SB 16, while well-intentioned in addressing the state's homelessness crisis, presents significant challenges for smaller cities like Lomita due to limited staffing, financial resources, and the absence of an in-house homeless service infrastructure. Additionally, the bill assumes cities have suitable/available land and capacity for new interim housing developments, which

may not be feasible in space-constrained communities like Lomita. As a result, Lomita may struggle to meet the extensive administrative and operational requirements outlined in the bill.

With uncertainty around future federal funding and a projected multiyear state budget deficit, communities across California are bracing for increased housing instability and homelessness. In the absence of ongoing funding, the complicated new requirements included in SB 16 will only make it more challenging for local governments to access crucial state homelessness funding that is instrumental to addressing the immediate homelessness challenges across California.

For these reasons, the City of Lomita has an **oppose position on SB 16 (Blakespear)**.

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. The Honorable Ben Allen
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Lomita City Council
Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager via email kiernan@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org