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CITY OF LOMITA

August 26, 2024

Senate Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1082 (Kalra) Vehicles: Abandonment Removal.
Notice of OPPOSITION (As amended 6/29/2023)

Dear Assembly Member Kalra,

The City of Lomita, regrettably must **oppose AB 1082 (Kalra)** which would eliminate the ability for cities and law enforcement to adequately enforce local vehicle violations,

AB 1082 would eliminate a number of parking enforcement programs' methods to gain compliance to effectively manage our curb space throughout cities' jurisdictions. It would prohibit the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from holding a vehicle's registration unless the vehicle had three (3) or more unpaid parking violations and eliminate the current \$500 cap on the total amount of unpaid penalties the agency must offer installment payment plans to indigent persons. The proposed legislation requires processing agencies to allow an indigent person who falls out of compliance with a payment plan at least four extensions of 45 days to resume payments.

In the most recent couple of years several laws have been enacted to address the impact of parking debt on indigent persons by reducing the financial burdens and requiring waivers of related late fees while recognizing that cities still need a legitimate reason and authority to discourage parked cars for too long. Cities and other processing agencies are currently required to have a payment plan mechanism in place that allows individuals with outstanding parking citations to repay their fines and penalties while preserving their ability to register and drive their vehicles. Additionally, the courts are required to have a procedure for waiving pre-payment penalties for indigent individuals when requesting an administrative hearing. Additionally, many cities have designated safe parking lots to make it legal for homeless individuals to park and live out of their vehicles citywide [as noted in the Governor's veto message of AB 1685 (Bryan, 2022)].

Currently if a city utilizes the DMV to collect delinquent parking fees they must offer a payment plan total penalties up to \$500 for indigent persons of in monthly installments of no more than \$25 over a period of 24 months. AB 1082 would expand the requirement to offer a payment plan to all individuals and for indigent people this bill would remove the \$500 cap the payment plan must apply to. In essence this will cap the amount of fees a processing agency can claim from an indigent person at \$600 – twenty-four payments of \$25, thus making it financially an incentive to disobey the law.

While recent laws have aimed to ease the financial burden on indigent individuals, AB 1082 would weaken Lomita's enforcement tools, making it difficult to deter long-term vehicle storage on public streets. The legislation could lead to a reduction in compliance with parking regulations, which would have a direct economic impact on the city. Additionally, the bill could negatively affect the quality of life for Lomita residents by diminishing the city's ability to manage curb space and maintain orderly streets.

Unfortunately, the approach in AB 1082 removes one of the few remaining tools cities have to enforce their streets by rewarding people who fail to pay their parking tickets.

For these reasons, the City of Lomita respectfully must **oppose AB 1082 (Kalra)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BU' or 'BH' with a stylized flourish.

Bill Uphoff
City of Lomita
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Ash Kalra
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Ben Allen
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Lomita City Council
Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager via email jkiernan@calcities.org
League of California Cities, via email: cityletters@calcities.org