



PAUL S. LEON
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August 5, 2019

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CITY MANAGER

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

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

Re: Assembly Bill 516 – Notice of Opposition

Dear Assembly Member Chiu,

The City of Ontario must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 516. While we understand the intentions of the bill, this measure would also eliminate our ability to adequately enforce state and local vehicle violations.

AB 516 would eliminate enforcement tools to address motorists who disregard basic laws designed to benefit our entire community. Specifically, the measure would eliminate the ability of the City of Ontario to:

1. "Immobilize," or place a boot on a vehicle for motorists who have five or more unpaid parking tickets and,
2. Remove vehicles in violation of parking time restrictions.

The immobilization of a vehicle is only used when someone has five or more unpaid parking tickets and has ignored the payment plans offered to them by our City, as established by recently chaptered bills AB 503 (2017) and AB 2544 (2018). The process created allows low-income individuals to pay their outstanding parking citations without impacting their ability to maintain their livelihood.

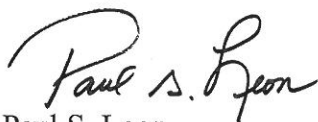
It is also important to note that the 72-hour parking enforcement notice is usually triggered by a complaint from local residents or businesses when cars appear abandoned or haven't moved for an extended period of time. By the time our City responds, more than 72 hours have typically elapsed, when a notice is thereby issued for the vehicle to move. Compliance costs nothing and can simply involve moving a vehicle to a more acceptable location to avoid a tow. By the time a tow is actually enforced, a vehicle has likely remained unmoved for days. Although recent amendments allow Cities to tow after giving the vehicle a five-day notice, this would mean that residents have to deal with potentially abandoned vehicles for probably over a week.

A number of bills going through the legislative process seek to increase housing production across the state to alleviate the ongoing crisis we are currently facing. As incentives are given to developers in exchange for higher production of units, parking requirements are often decreased or waived to encourage investment. Eliminating the need for parking spots in apartment complexes will push tenants to park in the street. However, many will be unable to do so due to the number of potentially legally abandoned vehicles this legislation will allow. This will create street congestion and discourage residents from moving into our jurisdiction.

The approach in AB 516 rewards people who fail to pay their parking tickets, or adhere to reasonable policies aimed at preventing abandonment and/or street storage of vehicles, regardless of income. Eliminating proportional consequences of these sorts of vehicle violations will exacerbate parking scarcity by creating an environment vulnerable for exploitation. This bill, coupled with efforts by the state aimed at eliminating local parking minimums, will create quality of life concerns across income demographics in California.

For these reasons, the City of Ontario must respectfully oppose AB 516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul S. Leon".

Paul S. Leon
Mayor

c: The Honorable Senator Connie M. Leyva
The Honorable Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez