



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Laura Friedman
California State Assembly, 43rd District
1021 O Street, Suite 6310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2336 (Friedman) – Automated Speed Enforcement; Demonstration Program
The City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our SUPPORT position for your AB 2336, which would authorize the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and two unspecified cities to install speed camera systems. Additionally, the City of Beverly Hills is respectfully requesting this bill be amended to authorize our city to utilize this important traffic safety tool.

AB 2336 would establish pilot programs in the above-mentioned cities to test and report on the efficacy and impacts of speed safety system technology. Years of national research point to an established fact about street safety: the faster people drive, the more dangerous and deadly our roads become. Numerous reports on vehicular accidents note that speed is the number one factor in crash severity.

Over the last sixteen years, the City of Beverly Hills has aggressively pursued authorization of automated speed enforcement. Former State Senator (and current Los Angeles County Supervisor) Sheila Kuehl introduced several measures during her time as a state legislator on this issue. The city-sponsored successive bills in 2006, and a 2008 bill authored by then-Senator Sheila Kuehl to authorize the use of automated speed enforcement within our jurisdiction (SB 466, SB 1300 and SB 1325). Each of these ultimately fell short of final approval.

Beyond these early measures, the City has tracked and supported subsequent attempts by then-Assemblymember David Chiu (AB 342 in 2017 and AB 550 in 2021) on this very important topic which will enhance the safety of those traveling on our local roadways. Most recently our City drafted a legislative proposal in 2019 and sought an author in Sacramento. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful at that time in securing a sponsor.

California must provide communities with the option to pilot this public safety tool in order to create the expectation of regular speed checking on our most dangerous streets as well as in work zones where traffic work crews are in dangerous proximity to fast-moving vehicles.

Across the United States, numerous peer-reviewed studies have shown that speed detection systems reduce the number of severe and fatal collisions by as much as 58 percent. Despite an established history of success for speed safety cameras, current California law prohibits the use of these systems. Studies overwhelmingly show that speed is the leading factor when determining fault in fatal and severe collisions, yet existing efforts have not led to the reduction in speed and traffic collisions needed to save lives and make communities safe. This tool assists jurisdictions in lowering severe injury and fatal accidents if state law is amended to allow for speed safety cameras to be installed.

Traffic speed enforcement is a critical component of our local efforts to reduce factors, like speeding, that result in traffic fatalities as well as lower the risk of someone being critically injured where they would be unable to work for a significant period of time.

Beverly Hills already employs a variety of methods to reduce speeding, such as speed setting, traffic engineering, education, and in-person enforcement. California must now allow the use of one of the most effective methods at reducing speeding: speed safety systems. These systems have been proven – time and time again – to reduce speeding, crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

For these reasons, we are pleased to SUPPORT AB 2336, and we thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblyman 50th District
Members and staff, Assembly Committee on Transportation
Andrew Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange