



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

May 12, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu  
California State Assembly, 17th District  
State Capitol, Room 4112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 550 (Chiu) Speed Safety System Pilot Programs  
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your AB 550, which would protect the safety of vulnerable travelers and workers on California roads by giving local transportation authorities and the state the option of creating speed safety pilot programs informed by a stakeholder-driven process under the auspices of the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency.

Speeding endangers not only the driver and occupants of the vehicle but also other motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The consequences of speeding include:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control;
- Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment;
- Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger;
- Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries;
- Economic implications of a speed-related crash; and
- Increased fuel consumption and costs.

Speed is the number one factor in crash severity. Nationwide, 112,580 people were killed in speeding-related incidents from 2005 to 2014. California is no exception: every year for the past five years, more than 1,000 Californians have died in speed-related traffic collisions. Tens of thousands more have been injured. These deaths and injuries are preventable.

As of December 2018, 146 individual communities nationwide have implemented ASE. Fifteen states allow automated speed enforcement systems (ASES) including Arizona, Colorado, New York, and Ohio. ASE is also operating in Washington, D.C. Additionally, the states of Illinois, Maryland and Oregon use ASES in work zones. Currently, California state law does not allow local jurisdictions the ability to install and utilize ASES cameras.

Jurisdictions suffering from high levels of avoidable fatal and severe collisions are desperate for additional tools to bring the number of traffic deaths down to zero. Vision Zero traffic safety initiatives underway in these localities have made some progress, but these efforts to date have not brought about the necessary reductions in injuries and deaths.

AB 550 dictates that citations under these pilot programs will be civil– not criminal – and will not result in a point on a driver's record. The City of Beverly Hills has a long history of support for state legislation that would offer more tools to local government to prevent excessive speeds thereby increasing safety for pedestrians and other drivers.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills SUPPORTS your AB 550. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Transportation and Committee  
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange