August 28, 2020

The Honorable Tasha Boerner Horvath
California State Assembly, 76th District
State Capitol, Room 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: City of Beverly Hills – Support for Telecommuting Legislation

Dear Assemblymember Boerner Horvath,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to express our support for the telecommuting ideas recently expressed in your AB 1492 Employment: Telecommuting Act. While this bill did not move forward in the current legislative cycle, we would like to encourage you to continue working on legislation to incentivize an employer to have their employees work from home.

Since Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many nonessential workers have been working from home. At the encouragement of their employers, these employees have continued to provide support to their clients. This has included services such as telemedicine, financial services, and insurance services.

Prior to COVID-19, teleworking was quite rare; however, many employers, including the City of Beverly Hills, have implemented telework in order to continue to perform the necessary functions of our work while keeping employees safe. There are many benefits to teleworking including: a reduction in carbon emissions and traffic, a decrease in costs associated with running an office, and assisting people (especially women) with balancing both work and family roles.

A recent survey conducted in April of 2020, indicated that over half of those employed were now teleworking due to the pandemic. Major technology companies like Google and Twitter are allowing employees to continue telework after the virus and many others are examining implementing similar policies.
Our City believes the state should incentivize employers to offer their workforce the option to telework, especially as the state works towards lowering carbon emissions. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills encourages you to pursue legislation in 2021 on improving the telework environment.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange