May 17, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
California State Senate, 24th District
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 54 (de León) Law enforcement: sharing data.
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Senator de León,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I regretfully write to you in OPPOSITION to SB 54 (de León), which would infringe on local control over law enforcement resources and practices.

This bill would limit state and local law enforcement agencies’ involvement in immigration enforcement. Specifically, SB 54 (de León) prohibits law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal authorities and using resources to engage in immigration enforcement. Further, the bill does not permit law enforcement to communicate with federal authorities about persons convicted of felonies and who are in jail custody, or persons alleged to have committed a criminal offense.

The City of Beverly Hills consistently advocates for the preservation and enhancement of local control to allow local jurisdictions to best serve the needs of their communities. This bill impedes local control by making far-reaching determinations about the appropriate uses of local law enforcement resources.

Additionally, SB 54 (de León) creates an undue burden on the Beverly Hills Police Department as our City would be required to report to the Attorney General’s office the details of every joint law enforcement task force we participate on or with. This would include any collaboration, engagement or partnership with a federal law enforcement agency for any investigation, interrogation, or arrest of a person for a violation of federal or state law. Our Police Officers frequently interact and collaborate with federal law enforcement agencies.

It is also important to note that immigration enforcement is only a small portion of the type of criminal investigations conducted by Homeland Security Investigations – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This agency has the authority to enforce a diverse array of federal statutes including human smuggling and trafficking; human rights violations; narcotics and weapon smuggling activities; and cybercrimes. Our City has benefited from our relationship with ICE as they have contributed significantly in helping our Police Department investigate crimes against children. ICE has a robust investigation team which focuses exclusively on child exploitation and they assist us with protecting our children.
For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills regretfully OPPOSESB 54 (de León). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    Andrew K. Antwi, Shaw / Yoder / Antwi, Inc.