August 21, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 10 (Hertzberg) Pretrial release or detention: pretrial services.
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in OPPOSITION to SB 10 (Hertzberg) and respectfully request that you VETO this bill when it comes before your desk. This bill would revise California's pretrial release system in a way that would jeopardize public safety and impede local control.

Specifically, SB 10 (Hertzberg) would limit pretrial detention to specified persons; eliminate the use of county bail schedules; and, remove the financial incentives used to ensure accused individuals report for trial. Additionally, this bill would task superior courts with conducting or contracting with another public entity to provide pretrial assessment services; conducting risk assessments on arrested persons; and, preparing reports with recommendations for conditions of release. These assessments would be made using a currently unidentified “validated risk assessment tool,” utilizing as yet unspecified criteria to make its assessment.

In a county as large as Los Angeles County, which includes 88 incorporated cities and more than 10 million residents, this bill would create a logistical dilemma through its imposition of a strict timeline for pretrial release. Furthermore, this bill requires the pretrial release of many individuals arrested for certain misdemeanors and felonies without providing district attorneys the opportunity to meaningfully weigh in on the results of a pretrial risk assessment.

SB 10 (Hertzberg) is a well-intended attempt to address the fact that the bail system affects persons of differing income levels differently. However, nearly every county now has a pretrial services
division in place to screen defendants and recommend their release on appropriate conditions, without bail, when doing so does not pose a serious danger to the public or a significant risk of non-appearance for the defendant's hearing. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills respectfully OPPOSES SB 10 (Hertzberg) and urges you to VETO this measure. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian A. Gold, MD
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, 18th Senate District
    The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.