September 24, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2405 (Burke) Right to safe, decent, and affordable housing
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of AB 2405 (Burke) and respectfully request you sign this bill when it comes before your desk. This bill would establish that it is the policy of the state that every individual in California has the right to safe, decent, and affordable housing. AB 2405 (Burke) would also require the policy's implementation to consider homelessness prevention, emergency accommodations, and permanent housing. It would also require all relevant state agencies and departments to consider that state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies are pertinent to addressing homelessness.

In January 2019, California had 27 percent of the nation's homeless population, which is approximately 151,278 individuals. California also has 53 percent of the nation’s unsheltered homeless population (108,432), including people living in vehicles, abandoned buildings, parks, or on the street. People experiencing homelessness face a variety of challenges including food and income insecurity. The state’s homeless population faces serious health problems and have a higher risk of exposure to communicable diseases such as COVID-19, sexually transmitted diseases, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

AB 2405 will appropriately establish a state policy to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for all California residents in need. The policy will ensure state and local governments are working to address the needs of the more than 150,000 individuals living without shelter and the 1.4 million lower income households without access to affordable homes. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to SUPPORT 2405 (Burke). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Autumn Burke, 62nd Assembly District
    The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange