



March 27, 2026

Mayor

Lauren Kleiman

Mayor Pro Tem

Noah Blom

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Robyn Grant

Joe Stapleton

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Anamaria Avila Farias
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6140
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1627 (Avila Farias) Public employment:
disqualifications
Notice of Opposition – City of Newport Beach**

Dear Assemblymember Avila Farias,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write in respectful opposition to AB 1627 which could potentially prevent qualified candidates from employment as peace officers in the State of California if they have previously been employed by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The City of Newport Beach appreciates and supports the intent of this legislation to ensure that public safety officers are community-oriented and uphold the highest ethical standards. Fostering trust within the communities our officers serve is essential, and maintaining strong relationships between law enforcement and residents remains a shared priority.

However, the City is concerned that the bill's categorical disqualification based solely on prior employment is overly broad and could exclude otherwise qualified candidates who have served in good faith and are committed to community policing principles. As written, the bill would automatically disqualify candidates if they were employed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a specified timeframe, without consideration of the individual's conduct, performance, or demonstrated commitment to constitutional policing.

The City of Newport Beach conducts rigorous background investigations and applies comprehensive standards, including evaluations of moral character, bias, and fitness for duty, before hiring any peace officer who would interact with our community members and visitors. These processes are designed to ensure that only individuals who meet the highest standards of professionalism

and integrity are entrusted with public safety responsibilities. A blanket prohibition removes the ability of local agencies to evaluate candidates on a case-by-case basis and may unnecessarily limit the pool of qualified applicants at a time when departments are facing recruiting challenges.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes AB 1627 as currently drafted.

Sincerely,



Lauren Kleiman
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council