



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1196 (Gipson): Peace Officers: Use of Force

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Bill 1196 (Gipson). This bill proposes a statewide ban on chokeholds and the carotid restraint by law enforcement. On June 16, 2020, the Long Beach City Council voted unanimously to support AB 1196.

In response to the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, the Long Beach City Council adopted a "Framework for Reconciliation," to engage in a public listening process, internal policy review, and local action plan to address racial injustice in Long Beach. An integral part of this framework is to consider ways to reform the use of force.

The Long Beach Police Department (LBPd), a national leader in advancing diversity and equity, already has a ban on chokeholds and has suspended the carotid restraint from its use of force policy. Furthermore, the LBPd has adopted innovative training methods to build trust and promote community engagement. In an effort to reduce the need for use of force, the Department emphasizes de-escalation techniques. Where use of force is necessary to control any given situation, it must be reasonable.

The City supports legislative efforts to improve municipal public safety services. While legislation alone will not heal the wounds caused by George Floyd's death and the deaths of many others throughout the country, prohibiting the carotid restraint and chokeholds, as AB 1196 proposes, is a crucial step.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1196 (Gipson) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District