

PATRICK H. WEST  
City Manager

August 2, 2019

The Honorable Philip Ting  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Concern for AB 1215 (Ting) Law Enforcement: Facial Recognition and Other Biometric Surveillance**

Dear Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to express concern about the portion of Assembly Bill 1215 (Ting) that proposes to prohibit the use of facial recognition technologies in conjunction with law enforcement agencies use of body-worn cameras. In context with existing laws, specifically, AB 748 and SB 1421 in 2018, the adoption of AB 1215 would result in delays to the availability of public records and prove costly to law enforcement agencies statewide.

The Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) began implementation of a body-worn camera program in 2016. As part of this program, the City is responsible for managing recording for public dissemination, in compliance with AB 748 and AB 1421. This requires extensive staff time and attention to detail. Facial recognition technologies help speed the process of releasing Public Records Act requests by quickly identifying individuals and businesses depicted in the recordings for those individuals and businesses to be redacted from the footage prior to the release of records. The proposal to eliminate the use of biometric surveillance technologies in conjunction with body-worn camera footage, as proposed by AB 1215, would mean this detail review would be left to the human eye, significantly slowing down the release of Public Records Act requests. In the interest of maintaining trust with stakeholders seeking recordings, it is critical the City be able to employ technologies, such as facial recognition to increase the efficiency of our work.

The City supports cross-sector collaborative approaches to violence prevention and public safety and works diligently to build positive relationships with our community. As users of body-worn cameras, we must also fulfill our obligation to protect those depicted in recordings who have a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is from this perspective that we write to express concern with AB 1215.



Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is concerned about AB 1215 (Ting).

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

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

