



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 960 (Skinner)—Public employment: peace officer: citizenship

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 960. Existing State law requires peace officers in California to meet specified minimum standards, including being either a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident who is eligible for and has applied for citizenship. This bill would remove this provision, expanding eligibility to become a sworn officer.

The City supports policies that allow residents who are not naturalized citizens to become public safety officers. California is made up of a diverse group of individuals who are willing and ready to serve their communities. Non-citizen residents may desire to seek a career as a peace officer but are prohibited by current law to do so. This bill would open an entirely new career field for these individuals who aim to serve by working in law enforcement.

Law enforcement, as an industry, has seen staffing challenges in recent years. Unfortunately, the Long Beach Police Department has had qualified candidates that the Department was unable to hire due to their citizenship status. The proposed legislation could help solve this problem by allowing a new candidate pool for law enforcement agencies to recruit from.

For these reasons, the City supports SB 960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a white background.

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