



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Philip Ting
California State Assembly
1201 O Street, Suite 5220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1814 (Ting) – Law enforcement agencies: facial recognition technology

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of AB 1814, which would prohibit law enforcement agencies or peace officers from using a facial recognition technology-generated match as the sole basis for probable cause in an arrest, search, or warrant.

Facial recognition technology is used in a variety of applications. This technology has the ability to identify an individual by comparing a digital image of the person's face to a database of known faces, typically by measuring distinct facial features and characteristics. Facial recognition technology does not by itself result in ultimate identification, but it may generate investigative leads necessary for combatting crime within our communities.

Certified employees at the Long Beach Police Department (LBPDP) utilize facial recognition technology within the Los Angeles County Regional Identification System (LACRIS) and its Digital Mugshot System (DMS) as a tool to provide an investigative lead after a crime has been committed. This allows LBPDP to increase the Department's efficiency in identifying potential suspects. Any identified investigative lead conducted by LBPDP using facial recognition technology does not result in an arrest or a detention without additional investigation. LBPDP does not and will not utilize facial recognition technology for predictive policing, real-time surveillance, or as the sole basis of an arrest or a detention.

The City supports legislation that advances artificial intelligence technology use for public safety that is ethical, trustworthy, and transparent. LBPDP is committed to ensuring its use of facial recognition technology remains constitutional and consistent with federal, state, and local standards. Furthermore, replacing the term "match" with "an investigative lead" throughout the text of the proposal will make the language consistent with industry standards. AB 1814 sets responsible safeguards and accountability measures to regulate facial recognition technology in a way that still supports access to artificial intelligence technology and enhances public safety.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 1814.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District