



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Mike Gipson
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for AB 21 (Gipson)—Peace Officers: Training

Dear Assemblymember Gipson,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 21. This bill would require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to revise their field training program to include instruction on how to effectively interact with persons with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. AB 21 aligns with the City’s objectives to support legislation that promotes equitable treatment and protects the fundamental liberties of all people.

As evidenced by the [City of Long Beach's Strategic Plan for Older Adults](#), the proportion of seniors living in Long Beach is expected to increase. Furthermore, the [2019 Community Health Assessment](#) indicates that Alzheimer’s disease is a leading cause of death in Long Beach, with an average of 163 deaths per year from 2016-2020. The City recognizes that our older adult population is vibrant, engaged, and critical to our City’s fabric; and as the prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia increases, it is important for law enforcement personnel to better identify, understand, and support the needs of people living with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. AB 21 would enhance the Field Training Officer program to include specific training on the identification of and appropriate responses for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. Current training objectives focus on persons experiencing mental health crisis, mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

The City’s Police Department would benefit from additional training on how to address the needs of older adults with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. The additional training proposed in this legislation would help strengthen the public’s trust in law enforcement and improve the overall safety of older adults with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia in Long Beach. For these reasons, the City supports AB 21.

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 Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District