



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for AB 67 (Muratsuchi)—Homeless Courts Pilot Program

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 67. This bill would create the Homeless Courts Pilot Program, a competitive grant administered by the Judicial Council to address the specific legal needs of chronically homeless individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system. AB 67 aligns with the City's objectives to support regional initiatives that encourage mental health treatment programs, funding for substance use treatment, and homelessness intervention efforts instead of incarceration-only solutions.

The City recognizes that addressing the root causes of homelessness requires a regional and collaborative approach. On May 11, 2021, the Long Beach City Council voted to implement a [Homeless Court Pilot Program](#), which assists people experiencing homelessness with outstanding criminal legal needs including the removal of warrants, expungements of past convictions, and dismissal of charges. The program connects participants to important services such as housing, disability, benefits, mental health, and substance abuse counseling.

The City's Homeless Court Project would greatly benefit from additional state funding. The proposed legislation will strengthen the City's capacity to address homelessness locally and ensure that resources are available to expand these vital services throughout the state. For these reasons, the City supports AB 67.

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