



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 3, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 532 (Wiener) – Parking Payment Zones

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I urge your signature on SB 532. This bill would modernize municipal parking payments by authorizing – but not requiring – the cities of San Francisco, Long Beach, and Santa Monica to implement paid parking without having to incur the high cost of meter installation, maintenance, and collection. SB 532 allows local authorities in the specified cities to pilot mobile-only payment zones for five years after implementing the first zone in that city or through January 1, 2033, whichever is sooner.

Long Beach is the seventh largest city in California and second largest city in the County of Los Angeles, with a population of 467,000; 18 historical districts; and 180 local neighborhoods and business organizations. The City of Long Beach has both single-space and multi-space on-street parking meters in Downtown Long Beach, The Pike, Second Street in Belmont Shore, Fourth Street in Retro Row, and select beach lots. Current law allows local authorities to permit meterless parking payment, but still effectively requires cities to include expensive physical meters. Cities thus spend precious resources purchasing, installing, and maintaining outdated and expensive meter equipment. Further, parking meters are often vandalized and consume valuable real estate on our streets that can be utilized in other ways by the community, such as bicycle parking, or more practically used by pedestrians, especially for people with disabilities who may need more space to get around.

To address these issues, SB 532 allows local authorities to implement meterless parking payment zones, provided that the authority meets various signage and equitable cash payment plan requirements. Specifically, the local parking authority must 1) install signs that clearly state that payment is required and how payments may be made within 100 feet of any space that is part of the meterless parking zone; 2) adopt an accessible and equitable parking cash payment plan for the meterless zones that provides a reasonably accessible alternative means for the cash payment of parking fees; and 3) consult and collaborate with local stakeholder groups, including racial equity, privacy protection, and economic justice groups, to develop the cash payment plan. The City is confident in our ability to meet the requirements proposed in SB 532.

The City supports policies and legislation that sustain financial wellbeing for the City. In Long Beach, we envision implementing the pilot project in commercial areas where additional paid parking may be needed. SB 532 helps local agencies reduce fee collection costs while improving parking payment processes.

For these reasons, the City requests your signature on SB 532.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line 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

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