



March 27, 2026

Mayor

Lauren Kleiman

Mayor Pro Tem

Noah Blom

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Robyn Grant

Joe Stapleton

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1537 (Bryan) Peace officers: secondary employment
Notice of Opposition – City of Newport Beach**

Dear Assemblymember Bryan,

The City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes AB 1537, which would prohibit California peace officers from engaging in secondary employment with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or any entity that assists with immigration enforcement. As currently drafted, the bill's language is overly broad and creates significant unintended consequences.

Of particular concern is Section 1(f)(1), which prohibits a peace officer from engaging in secondary employment with DHS or any entity that assists in immigration enforcement. Due to the expansive and ambiguous nature of this provision, military reservists could be inadvertently captured under this definition because of routine coordination and information sharing between branches of the United States military and DHS. As a result, peace officers who also serve as military reservists could be forced to choose between their law enforcement careers and their military service, an outcome that is both unintended and concerning.

Additionally, the bill may unintentionally restrict peace officers from participating in disaster response efforts. DHS plays a central role in coordinating emergency response through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Under the bill's current language, peace officers would be prohibited from volunteering or assisting in disaster response activities coordinated through DHS, thereby limiting critical emergency response capacity during times of need.

Peace officers are an essential component of our public safety infrastructure and should not be placed in a position where they must choose between serving their communities and serving their country.

While the City understands and respects the intent to address concerns related to secondary employment in immigration enforcement, the bill's broadly written language risks undermining public safety and emergency response capabilities across California.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes AB 1537.

Sincerely,



Lauren Kleiman
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council