



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 Mark Gonzalez  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6150  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1896 (Gonzalez) Public employment: disqualifications  
Notice of Opposition – City of Newport Beach**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

The City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes AB 1896 which would disqualify individuals from public employment based on prior employment with an entity that “engages in immigration enforcement,” as defined.

The City of Newport Beach appreciates and supports the intent of the legislation to ensure that public employees, particularly peace officers, are community-oriented, uphold the highest ethical standards and foster trust within the communities they serve. Maintaining strong relationships between law enforcement has always been a top priority of the City and we recognize the importance of policies that reinforce those values.

However, the City is concerned that the bill’s categorical disqualification based solely on prior employment may be overly broad and could exclude otherwise qualified candidates who have served in good faith. AB 1896 defines “immigration enforcement” to include not only direct enforcement activities but also assisting in the investigation or enforcement of federal immigration laws. This expansive definition raises concerns that individuals who worked for agencies that merely coordinate or share information with the Department of Homeland Security could be captured under the bill, even if their role was not directly tied to immigration enforcement activities.

Additionally, the bill imposes a categorical disqualification from public employment, including positions with cities, counties and other public agencies, based solely on prior employment during a specified timeframe. This blanket prohibition does not allow for consideration

of an individual's actual conduct, performance or demonstrated commitment to community policing and public service. As a result, qualified candidates who have served in good faith and who are dedicated to protecting and serving their communities could be unnecessarily excluded from public employment.

Local public agencies already conduct rigorous background investigations and apply comprehensive standards, including evaluations of moral character and bias. These processes are specifically designed to ensure that only individuals who meet the highest standards of professionalism and integrity are trusted with public employment.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes AB 1896.

Sincerely,



Lauren Kleiman  
Mayor  
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council