

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Arleta Neighborhood Council

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ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Community Impact Statement

June 19, 2019

Honorable Council Member Nury Martinez, Council District 6
Honorable Council Member Herb Wesson, Council District 10
Honorable State Senator Robert Hertzberg, Senate District 18
Honorable State Senator Scott Wilk, Senate District 21
Honorable State Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Senate District 25
Honorable State Senator Henry Stern, Senate District 27
Honorable County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District
Honorable County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District

RE: Council File: 19-0002-S50 and 19-0533

To the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and State of California,

On Tuesday, June 18, 2019, the General Board for the Arleta Neighborhood Council voted: 9 Ayes with 0 Noes to support the City of Los Angeles' resolution to oppose AB 516.

Background:

1. AB 516, "would prohibit peace officers and other public employees engaged in traffic regulation from towing or immobilizing vehicles for a number of reasons" including "instances where vehicles have been left in the public right-of-way for over 72 hours, vehicles with five or more parking citations, and vehicles with expired registration" (Martinez, Motion, May 5, 2019, Council File 19-0533).

Findings and justifications:

1. The deletion of peace officers' authority to impound vehicles for owners' failures to pay five citations, expired vehicle registration of six months or more, or for abandonment in the public right-of-way over 72 hours will increase scofflaw behavior and a proliferation of unsafe/illegal/stolen vehicles operating (or in non-operational state) on public streets or a public right-of-way due to a non-registration requisite.
2. AB 516 will contribute to environmental pollution in California whereupon such pardoned vehicles will be exempted from both passing a required state smog check and renewing their vehicles' registrations while all other California law-abiding owners of post-1975 fossil fuel motorized vehicles are required to comply with the most stringent environmental laws in the nation if not the world.

3. Pardoned vehicles will become State mandated visual blight in the City of Los Angeles and throughout all of California.
4. The Arleta Neighborhood Council supports Councilmember Grieg Smith's resolution of March 27, 2019, and Councilwoman Nury Martinez's motion of May 21, 2019, to oppose AB 516 as it will have significant negative impacts on the City of Los Angeles. On June 11, 2019 the Los Angeles City Council voted to formally oppose AB 516 "which would prohibit local jurisdictions from towing vehicles that have five or more unpaid parking citations, registration that is six months or more out of date, or that have been left on a public street for over 72 hours without being moved " (Los Angeles City Council Agenda, 33, 39).
5. Arleta and immediate surrounding communities already demonstrate what scofflaw behavior looks like as well as risks associated with flouting of local ordinance Los Angeles Municipal Code 85.02. See pictures below:



Figure 1. Overturned vehicle after collision with recreational vehicle near 14800 (block) Lassen Street, North Hills, on February 9, 2019. Recreational vehicles shown in this photograph did not comply with Los Angeles Municipal Code 85.02's vehicle dwelling parking restrictions as it prohibits vehicle dwelling between 9 PM and 6 AM in yellow zones as shown in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2. Clip of yellow zone vicinity of crash location in map of Mission Area Community Police Station regarding vehicle dwelling. Los Angeles Municipal Code 85.02 prohibits vehicle dwelling in yellow zones between 9:00 PM - 6:00 AM.



Figure 3. Stolen vehicle abandoned in front of 14200 (block) of Remington Street, Arleta, on May 22, 2019.



Figure 4. Stolen vehicle abandoned on Dorrington Street side of 14200 (block) Remington Street, Arleta, on May 22, 2019.



Figure 5. Abandoned vehicle without rear license plate at 8500 (block) Tujunga Avenue, Sun Valley, on May 22, 2019. Unknown if the area the car sits on is considered private property as vehicle has remained in place since April 2019 at least.



Figure 6. Same vehicle shown in Figure 4 without front license plate at 8500 (block) Tujunga Avenue, Sun Valley, on May 22, 2019. Unknown if the area the car sits on is considered private property as vehicle has remained in place since April 2019 at least.



Figure 7. Recreational vehicles parked for more than 72 hours on northbound Arleta Avenue north of Paxton Street by Los Angeles County Flood Control Pacoima Wash in Mission Hills on May 22, 2019



Figure 8. Trash left by unknown vehicle dweller on west side of Arleta Avenue at entrance to Pacoima Spreading Grounds in Mission Hills with same recreational vehicles shown in Figure 7 visible in the distance across the street on May 22, 2019. While not visible here this spreading grounds entrance is immediately adjacent to a single-family home.



Figure 9. Recreational vehicles that have not moved their vehicles after well over 72 hours at 14800 (block) Lassen Street, North Hills, adjacent to and across the street from single-family homes on May 22, 2019. Moreover, vehicle dwelling here continues to go unfettered between 9 PM and 6 AM despite it being a yellow zone as shown in the mapped area shown in Figure 2.



Figure 10. Same recreational vehicles shown in Figure 8 across from 14800 (block) Lassen Street, Mission Hills, on May 22, 2019. Front yard fencing and foliage from single-family homes is visible in this photograph.