



CITY OF MARTINEZ

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA September 7, 2011

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Gary D. Peterson, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: AB x1 41 Vehicle License Fee (VLF) restoration
DATE: September 7, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve and sign the attached letter to Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla in support of AB x1 41 and authorize the Chief of Police to deliver thereto.

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill x1 41, reiterates that public safety is a top legislative priority. AB x1 41 seeks to unwind the SB 89 taking of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) revenues and restore allocations for affected local communities on a continuous basis. This would be made possible by reinstating the special 0.15% VLF rate beginning on January 1, 2012, that provides an alternative funding stream for state public safety grants rather than city monies. Specifically, AB x1 41 would accomplish all of the following:

Assembly Bill x1 41 would restore the long-standing VLF formula that provides \$130 million in general revenue dollars for cities throughout the state. This includes the per capita rate for all cities, as well as the supplemental funding for inhabited annexations and new incorporations.

Beginning in FY 2012-13, this legislation would reinstate the Department of Justice programs for the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement and Bureau of Investigation and Intelligence. These programs assist local law enforcement by investigating the "worst of the worst" including child exploitation, officer-involved shootings, and organized crime groups, as well as narcotics enforcement through regional offices targeting major drug dealers, violent career criminals, and clandestine drug manufacturers.

This bill ensures full funding of the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funding (SLESF) grant program, which includes funding for COPS frontline law enforcement and booking fee subvention and does not interfere with dedicated funding streams for state corrections realignment. Under SB 89, this grant program relied on monies siphoned from cities' VLF share, but under AB x1 41 it would have a new, secure revenue stream and midyear budgets would be protected from further reductions due to VLF loss.

The failure to pass this legislation will have a disastrous impact on public safety, because the DOJ programs that help local law enforcement continue regional drug enforcement will be eliminated.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ACTION:

Motion supporting AB x1 41 and authorize the Chief of Police to deliver the signed letter to Assemblywoman Bonilla's office.



City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

(925) 372-3505
FAX (925) 229-5012

September 6, 2011

Honorable Susan Bonilla
Assemblywoman, 11th District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0011

RE: AB x1 41 (Solorio). Vehicle License Fee. LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Bonilla:

The Martinez City Council is pleased to support AB x1 41 and appreciates your leadership to help local communities preserve the local public services and their safety network.

Prior to SB 89, the historic vehicle license fee (VLF) formula provided approximately \$3.50 per person in general purpose funding to all of California's 482 cities, with additional allocations for new incorporations and annexations. An average city dedicates over 60% of their general purpose revenues to public safety departments. The result of SB 89 is that cities lost \$130 million in general purpose revenue, the majority of which goes to police service. In exchange, cities received less than \$100 million in state grants earmarked for frontline law enforcement service.

Fortunately, AB x1 41 undoes the harm by restoring the VLF formula for cities, including annexations and new incorporations, and for Orange County. It does so by reinstating the special VLF rate for public safety that expired on June 30th of this year. Now, the 0.15% fully covers the local VLF shares, secures the local law enforcement grants, including Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) and booking fee subventions, as well as important Department of Justice programs that assist local law enforcement with the "worst of the worst" crimes and regional drug enforcement.

Without AB x1 41 our city anticipates a reduction in the VLF revenues of at least \$129,122, which will have a devastating impact on our already challenging budget.

The Martinez City Council, thanks you for considering our support of AB x1 41.

Sincerely,

Rob Schroder
Mayor

Janet Kennedy
Vice Mayor

Lara Delaney
Councilmember

Michael Menesini
Councilmember

Mark Ross
Councilmember