



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Anamaria Avila Farias
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6140
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1627 (Avila Farias) Public Employment: Disqualifications
Notice of Opposition – City of Upland**

Dear Assemblymember Avila Farias,

On behalf of the City of Upland, I write today in respectful opposition to AB 1627, which could potentially prevent qualified candidates from employment as peace officers in the State of California if they have previously been employed by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The City of Upland appreciates and supports the intent of this legislation to ensure that public safety officers are community-oriented and uphold the highest ethical standards. Fostering trust within the communities our officers serve is important, and maintaining strong relationships between law enforcement and residents is a shared priority.

The City is concerned that the bill's broad disqualification based solely on prior employment could unfairly exclude qualified candidates committed to community policing principles. As written, it would automatically disqualify candidates who were employed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a specified period, regardless of their individual conduct or commitment to constitutional policing.

The City of Upland conducts rigorous background investigations and applies comprehensive standards, including evaluations of moral character, bias, and fitness for duty, before hiring any peace officer who would serve the public. These processes are designed to ensure that only individuals who meet the highest standards of professionalism and integrity are entrusted with public safety responsibilities. Blanket prohibitions prevent local agencies from evaluating candidates on a case-by-case basis and may unnecessarily limit the pool of qualified applicants at a time when departments are facing recruiting challenges.

For these reasons, the City of Upland respectfully opposes AB 1627 as currently drafted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Velto".

Bill Velto
Mayor, City of Upland