



July 9, 2026

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1013 (Cervantes) Automated License Plate Recognition Systems
Notice of Opposition – City of Irvine**

Dear Senator Cervantes,

On behalf of the City of Irvine, I write to respectfully oppose SB 1013. This measure would prohibit local agencies from sharing Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) data with federal law enforcement under certain conditions and would mandate a 30-day data retention limit for information not on a HOT list.

ALPR is a proven and essential law enforcement tool. It has been instrumental in combating organized retail theft and is a primary reason criminal activity of that nature has declined since 2024. The City has multiple large malls and shopping centers, many containing luxury stores, which have been the target of organized retail crime over the past several years. ALPR data has been vital in investigating retail theft and has led to successful results in our City.

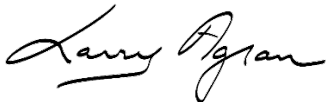
The bill's 30-day data retention limit poses a serious threat to criminal investigations. Many crimes, particularly sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and complex property crimes, go unreported for weeks or months. Victims often come forward long after an incident, at which point ALPR data placing vehicles in a given area may be the critical evidence needed to identify suspects or corroborate testimony. A rigid 30-day cap would result in the permanent loss of that evidence before an investigation even begins. While the City recognizes that reasonable limits on data retention have merit, 30 days is insufficient to serve justice.

“As Chief of Police, I must express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1013 (Cervantes),” states City of Irvine Chief of Police Michael Kent. Chief Kent elaborates, “While our department fully supports strong privacy protections and responsible data management, the rigid statewide restrictions proposed by this bill would severely diminish a critical, proven public safety tool. Specifically, mandating the deletion of all non-hotlist Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) data after just 30 days strips investigators of vital historical evidence. Modern criminal investigations, particularly complex property crimes, ongoing burglary series, and organized retail theft rings, frequently rely on historical data to identify vehicle patterns and establish leads weeks or months after an initial incident occurs. Restricting this retention window and cutting off default regional database sharing fundamentally weakens our ability to solve crimes, protect victims, and keep our communities safe.”

Chief Kent further explains, "It is critical to clarify that our opposition to SB 1013 is entirely rooted in local investigative efficacy and has no bearing on immigration enforcement. In strict alignment with California law and our department's standing policies, we do not share, transfer, or make our ALPR data accessible to federal immigration enforcement agencies. Our utilization of ALPR technology is strictly dedicated to local public safety priorities, such as locating stolen vehicles, finding missing persons, and solving local offenses. Weakening this system does not alter our commitment to protecting our diverse community, but it will significantly hinder our day-to-day capabilities to disrupt criminal behavior and secure justice for local victims."

The City of Irvine supports law enforcement accountability. We do not, however, support policies that strip agencies of technologies that make our communities safer. SB 1013 also undermines local control. Local agencies are already addressing ALPR oversight at the local level; many cities have proactively updated their policies and contracts accordingly. Imposing statewide mandates on contracting decisions is unnecessary, duplicative, and contrary to the principle that communities are best positioned to govern themselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Agran".

Larry Agran
Mayor
City of Irvine

cc: Irvine City Council
Sean Crumby, City Manager