



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

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May 27, 2025

Randy Rowse
Mayor

The Honorable Laura Richardson
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101-1990

RE: SB 748 (Richardson): Encampment Resolution Funding Program: Safe Parking Sites: Reporting
City of Santa Barbara – Notice of Support

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Dear Senator Richardson,

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 748 (Richardson), which expands the Encampment Resolution Funding program to support urban local jurisdictions in operating safe parking sites while seeking interim or permanent housing solutions. SB 748 also mandates a new reporting requirement for the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide quarterly updates to the Legislature, beginning April 1, 2026, detailing how program funds are allocated.

As housing costs continue to rise and shelter space remains limited, a significant number of unhoused individuals and families in Santa Barbara have turned to vehicles for temporary shelter. These informal encampments, often located along public roads or in vacant lots, raise complex public health, safety, and environmental concerns that cannot be resolved without dedicated, targeted resources. However, existing state homelessness funding programs often do not explicitly recognize or support strategies tailored to vehicle-based homelessness.

SB 748 provides essential resources to address homelessness through targeted funding and practical solutions, such as safe parking sites, which offer immediate, secure alternatives for individuals living in vehicles. By extending the program to urban communities, this measure recognizes the unique challenges faced by cities and offers critical support in transitioning unhoused individuals to stable, permanent housing.

In recent years, the City of Santa Barbara has worked diligently to engage with unhoused residents, connect individuals with housing and services, and maintain clean and safe neighborhoods. However, our ability to assist those living in vehicles remains constrained by limited funding and statutory authority. SB 748 provides a clear and compassionate framework to address these challenges and will ensure that cities are better equipped to serve one of the most visible and vulnerable segments of California's homeless population.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Barbara strongly supports SB 748 and applauds your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,


Mayor Randy Rowse
City of Santa Barbara

cc: Senator Monique Limón
Assemblymember Gregg Hart