



City of Riverside, California
Office of the Mayor
PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 602 (Archuleta) – Trespass. As Introduced February 15, 2023 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wahab:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I would like to express our support for SB 602 (Archuleta), which will help local governments deal with public nuisance and graffiti issues by extending the timeframes that Letters of Agency between peace officers and absentee property owners have, to remain in effect. The challenges posed to local communities by the proliferation of criminal public blight and nuisance activity are curtailed by active Letters of Agency programs.

Letters of Agency allow law enforcement officials to utilize their training and expertise to address nuisance problems in a timely and effective manner, while limiting the liability and asset impacts that businesses and private citizens experience. Currently, the limited and repetitive processes require substantial and consistent administrative maintenance that result in an inefficient allocation of peace officer resources and produce potential lapses in intended nuisance deterrence.

By extending the effective duration of Letters of Agency from 30 days to 12 months and the operative timeframe of trespass authorization letters from 12 months to 3 years, SB 602 would improve local peace officer response capabilities, help mitigate the impacts of underlying nuisances, and provide a more convenient and accessible mechanism for property owners to participate in these proactive efforts.

The City of Riverside contains a multitude of properties in various stages of economic development that have absentee owners and many small businesses in need of continuing nuisance abatement that do not possess the necessary resources to solve these challenges themselves.

Allowing these properties that have the intention to abdicate agency to law enforcement officials long-term, while they continue to invest in the surrounding community, serves the interests of both the public and the entities themselves. Extending the renewal process for Letters of Agency will dramatically improve the aesthetics of Riverside while lifting administrative burden on staff resources that can be focused elsewhere.

If you have questions regarding the City's position, please contact Chekesha Gilliam, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (951) 826-2419 or CGilliam@riversideca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Lock Dawson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor, City of Riverside

CC: Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Bob Archuleta
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation