



SANTA CLARITA VALLEY Chamber of Commerce

KIMPTON THE SAWYER



HYATT REGENCY SACRAMENTO



SHERATON GRAND Sacramento Hotel



August 8, 2022

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
Sacramento City Hall  
915 I St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: SACRAMENTO HOMELESS INITIATIVE**

Dear Mayor Steinberg:

We have recently learned the troubling news that you and the Sacramento City Council are considering an about-face on putting a citywide ballot measure before voters this November that would begin to comprehensively and humanely address your city’s homelessness crisis. We are writing to urge that you stay the course with your original commitment, in part to signal to other communities in California that a city can make the difficult decision to do the right thing.

Earlier this year, when the coalition of business, labor, public safety, and community groups, Sacramentans for Safe and Clean Streets and Parks, agreed to withdraw their original measure, they had already gathered 20,000 signatures in a matter of weeks. They set their measure aside to work with you and city officials in good faith on a modified version that would be placed on the ballot by the city council because they wanted to address concerns raised by city officials while allowing the voters of Sacramento to have a voice in the city’s approach to homelessness.

Action on the proposed ballot measure – the *Emergency Shelter and Enforcement Act of 2022* – has placed Sacramento at the forefront of California cities struggling to address the tragedy of homelessness and its effects on unhoused individuals and the surrounding communities. Sacramento has an opportunity to create a model that other communities can replicate as a critical first step towards addressing an issue that has become a source of frustration and outrage throughout the state.

This novel and holistic plan that was placed on the ballot in April has caused communities elsewhere in California to see Sacramento as a leader in solving this problem. If you turn back from the bold action contemplated by the *Emergency Shelter and Enforcement Act of 2022*, it will set a terrible precedent and signal to other communities that procrastination and finger-pointing are acceptable, and even worse, that promises made by elected leaders may not be kept. That would be devastating news for the unhoused individuals, residents, and businesses of our cities and regions.

Sincerely,

Ben Golombek  
Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff for Policy  
California Chamber of Commerce

California Business Properties Association

California Business Roundtable  
California Hotel & Lodging Association  
Fresno Chamber of Commerce  
Hyatt Regency Sacramento  
Kimpton Sawyer Hotel  
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Sheraton Grand Sacramento

cc: Mary Lynne Vellinga, Mayor Steinberg's Office  
Sacramento City Councilmembers  
Sacramento City Clerk

BG:am