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May 7, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Stefani
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1588 (Stefani): Vehicles: Sideshow Accountability and
Community Safety Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Stefani:

Larry Klein
Mayor

Richard Mehlinger
Vice Mayor

Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember

Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember

Linda Sell
Councilmember

Charlsie Chang
Councilmember

Eileen Le
Councilmember

On behalf of the City of Sunnyvale, we want to express our support of Assembly Bill 1588, which would strengthen the ability of law enforcement to respond to illegal sideshows threatening the safety of communities across the state by providing additional tools and increasing accountability for repeat offenders.

Sunnyvale, like many communities across California, has experienced the growing and dangerous impact of illegal sideshows. Participants frequently block roads, and have done so in Sunnyvale, blocking Santa Teresa Boulevard and the exit off of State Route 87. After another sideshow, the intersection at North Fair Oaks Avenue and Ahwanee Avenue was damaged by excessive tire marking. Over time, sideshows have evolved into highly organized and increasingly reckless gatherings that jeopardize public safety, disrupt neighborhoods, and place significant strain on local law enforcement and emergency response systems. The presence of large crowds, blocked intersections, reckless driving, and the frequent use of firearms and illegal fireworks has made sideshows not only a nuisance, but a serious and ongoing threat to residents and first responders.

AB 1588 provides critical and much-needed tools to address this escalating problem. By authorizing courts to issue warrants for the immediate seizure and impoundment of vehicles involved in sideshow activity, the bill strengthens enforcement capabilities and helps disrupt these events before they escalate further. Expanding the sideshow framework to include motorbikes and dirt bikes closes a key loophole that has allowed dangerous conduct to persist without adequate accountability.



Importantly, the bill also enhances consequences for repeat offenders and for those whose actions result in bodily injury by establishing stronger penalties, including making such offenses “wobblers.” Additionally, declaring vehicles used in sideshows as public nuisances subject to forfeiture provides a meaningful deterrent to those who repeatedly endanger the public.

Sunnyvale supports AB 1588 because it advances General Plan Goal SN-3 (Safe and Secure City) by strengthening the City’s ability to control dangerous conduct that threatens life and property. Illegal sideshows create high-risk conditions that undermine public safety and strain emergency response systems. Enhancing enforcement and accountability aligns with Sunnyvale’s policy direction to proactively reduce crime and maintain safe neighborhoods.

In the Bay Area, we have seen firsthand how quickly sideshows can turn tragic, threatening not only participants but also innocent bystanders. AB 1588 strikes the right balance by equipping law enforcement with more effective tools while reinforcing accountability for those who engage in dangerous and unlawful behavior.

For these reasons, the City of Sunnyvale proudly supports AB 1588. Thank you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation to protect communities across California. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Chief Daniel Pistor, Director of Public Safety at dpistor@sunnyvale.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Klein".

Larry Klein
Mayor

cc: Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab
Assembly Member Patrick Ahrens
City Council
Tim Kirby, City Manager
Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager
Daniel Pistor, Director of Public Safety