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May 14, 2026

The Honorable Patrick Ahrens  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1961 (Ahrens): Workplace Violence Restraining Orders –  
SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Ahrens:

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 for AB 1961, which would strengthen California's workplace violence restraining order laws by allowing employers to seek protections for an entire workplace when credible threats are directed at a location rather than a specific individual employee.

Across California, public agencies, schools, hospitals, and local governments are increasingly confronted with threats aimed broadly at workplaces, campuses, and public facilities. Too frequently, employers encounter significant barriers when attempting to obtain restraining orders if they cannot identify a single named employee as the target of the threat. AB 1961 addresses this critical gap by authorizing courts to issue workplace violence restraining orders protecting an entire workplace or worksite when threats are directed at the location itself.

For cities like Sunnyvale, this legislation provides an important tool to help safeguard public employees and the communities they serve. Municipal workplaces regularly interact with members of the public and may face situations involving threatening communications or behavior directed at city facilities, service centers, or staff collectively. AB 1961 appropriately recognizes that credible threats to the workplace can endanger all employees present, even when no specific individual is named.

DPS supports AB 1961 because it advances General Plan Goal SN-3 (Safe and Secure City) by strengthening protections for employees and the public against credible threats of violence. Municipal facilities regularly serve the public and may face threats directed at workplaces rather than specific individuals. Allowing broader workplace violence

restraining orders supports Sunnyvale's commitment to proactive crime prevention, rapid response, and maintaining safe public facilities.

The bill thoughtfully balances workplace safety with due process considerations by focusing restraining orders on clearly identifiable workplaces and locations. This practical approach will help employers act swiftly to prevent violence and protect workers before threats escalate into harm.

For these reasons, the City of Sunnyvale supports AB 1961 and appreciates your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Chief Daniel Pistor, Director of Public Safety at [dpistor@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:dpistor@sunnyvale.ca.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Larry Klein  
Mayor

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