



CITY OF MURRIETA

July 18, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 23 (Wiener) Unlawful Entry of a Vehicle - Notice of Support

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The City of Murrieta wishes to express its support for Senate Bill 23 (SB 23) which clarifies that the definition of auto burglary is entering a vehicle unlawfully with the intent to commit theft.

Under current law, a person arrested for auto burglary can escape a conviction if the prosecutor is unable to prove that the vehicle was locked. The mere fact that a victim's window may have been broken does not, by itself, establish that the vehicle doors were locked. This evidence is especially needed in cases where the victim is unavailable or unknown, which is common amongst tourist victims, since they typically do not return for trials.

Closing this statutory loophole would allow prosecutors to hold auto burglars accountable for their actions, and would help provide peace of mind for both residents and visitors alike throughout all of California's 482 cities.

For the reasons stated above, the City supports SB 23. If you have any questions, please contact Louie Lacasella, City Manager's Office at (951) 461-6008 or llacasella@MurrietaCA.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Seyarto
Mayor

Cc: Murrieta City Council
Senator Jeff Stone
Assembly Member Melissa Melendez
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities Public Affairs Manager
David Jones, Emanuels Jones & Associates