



# CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599  
[www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org)

May 1, 2024

Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

**RE: Support to Senate Bill 905 (SB 905) Crimes: theft from a vehicle.**

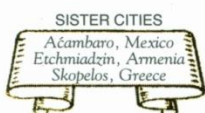
Dear Honorable Senate Appropriations Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the City of La Verne to express my strong support for Senate Bill 905, a critical measure aimed at strengthening our legal framework to combat the rising levels of auto burglaries plaguing our municipalities. This legislation is urgently needed to close significant loopholes that currently hinder the effective prosecution of these crimes, which have been a persistent issue, particularly in high-density urban areas.

Recent data underscore the severity of this issue, with the Bay Area experiencing nearly 20,000 auto break-ins last year alone, marking a significant increase from previous years. These high rates of crime not only pose a direct threat to public safety but also place an enormous strain on local law enforcement resources. SB 905 addresses these challenges head-on by simplifying the prosecution process, eliminating the "locked door loophole," which has previously required victims to testify in court that their vehicle was locked at the time of the break-in. This change is crucial as it removes an unnecessary barrier to prosecution, especially in cases involving non-resident victims who are unable to return to testify.

Moreover, SB 905 takes a strong stand against the organized resale of stolen goods from vehicles by allowing the prosecution of individuals possessing over \$950 worth of stolen goods intended for resale. This provision targets not only the thieves but also the middlemen and sellers involved in these criminal networks, disrupting the entire chain of illicit activities.

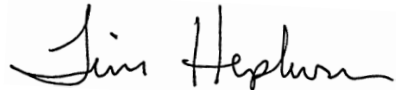
Given the current escalation in auto break-ins and their impact on our communities, it is imperative that we support SB 905. The bill's passage would not only aid in more efficient and effective law enforcement response but also send a strong message that our State is committed to upholding the safety and security of its citizens.



I urge your strong support for SB 905 to provide our law enforcement agencies with the necessary tools to combat this pervasive issue effectively. By supporting this bill, you are playing a vital role in enhancing the safety of our communities and ensuring that our municipalities are better equipped to handle the challenges of rising crime levels.

Thank you for considering the position of the City of La Verne on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "H".

Tim Hepburn  
Mayor

C: City Council  
Ken Domer, City Manager  
Sam Gonzalez, Chief of Police