



CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

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May 15, 2025

Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

RE: Support to AB 468 (Gabriel) Crimes: Looting.

Dear Honorable Assembly Appropriations Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, we express our strong support for Assembly Bill (AB) 468, which will better protect disaster victims and first responders through modernizing laws around looting and impersonation of emergency personnel during a disaster.

Following the recent fires in Los Angeles, we've seen individuals disguising themselves as police, firefighters, and other emergency personnel to gain access to fire-damaged areas. We have also seen numerous cases of individuals engaging in looting, further harming fire victims by stealing or damaging their property. Despite the severity of committing these crimes in a disaster area being greater, existing penalties fail to reflect this.

Not only are the crimes of looting and impersonation of emergency personnel reprehensible, but their harm to the communities also goes far beyond the value of the property stolen or damaged. These actions put first responders and disaster victims at greater risk, jeopardize public trust in first responders during an emergency, and undermine evacuation orders and warnings.

Public trust in first responders and emergency orders is essential to keep our communities safe. Strengthening penalties for these crimes will better protect first responders and disaster victims by deterring actions that could threaten first responders' ability to effectively do their jobs and put them in harm's way.

By strengthening penalties for looting and impersonation in evacuation zones, AB 468 will ensure California holds those seeking to take advantage of a disaster accountable and better protect residents, first responders, homes, vehicles, and impacted communities.

For these reasons, the City of La Verne strongly supports AB 468.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor