Mayor Butt Announces Support for SB 630 Limiting Funding for Jail Expansion

RICHMOND, Calif., Mayor Tom Butt announced his strong support today for Sen. Nancy Skinner’s (SD-09) amendments to a bill that would limit any county from receiving state funds for a detention facility if they lease jail beds to outside entities, including the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Senate Bill 630, which is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Public Safety Committee Tuesday morning, would potentially impact the $25 million being requested from Contra Costa County and the $70 million requested from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) by the Contra Costa County Sheriff to expand the West County Detention Facility in Richmond. Sheriff Livingston currently contracts with ICE to hold hundreds of individuals for deportation in the detention center.

Mayor Butt sent the following letter to Senator Skinner and the Senate Public Safety Committee:

Dear Senator Skinner:

I am proud to support your proposed amendments to Senate Bill 630 which would limit state funding for the expansion of county detention center capacity where existing capacity is used for purposes other than the housing of inmates held under local jurisdiction. I share your priorities for shifting the State’s approach to investments in crime prevention and reentry as opposed to the outdated overreliance on incarceration and expanding jail facilities. This bill is critical to supporting the goals and values held by our City, residents and our community’s crime prevention efforts.

Our city has made long-term commitments to addressing crime prevention through community policing and policies that protect all our residents regardless of immigration status. SB 630 helps safeguard our state resources from being re-directed for purposes that are counter to the State’s position on immigration. Allowing for a county to enhance jail housing capacity for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other contract, undermines our state’s criminal justice reform priorities. This bill is an important step to ensure accountability for critical public funds so that they are not used to subsidize the federal government’s failed immigration policies.
The state must reinforce spending priorities that support critical public services that provide the greatest benefit. The growing needs in communities like Richmond require that public funds be invested in advancing outcomes in education, community health and improving quality of life. We cannot afford to redirect scarce public funds for projects that counteract local public safety and community policing efforts.

Thank you for your commitment to the needs and priorities of our community, and I encourage your colleagues in the legislature to support Senate Bill 630.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Butt
City of Richmond

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April 24, 2017

Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair - Public Safety Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA  95814

Re: Proposed Amendments to Senate Bill 630 – Jails: financing bonds (SUPPORT)

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Thank you for your commitment to the needs and priorities of our community, and I encourage your colleagues in the legislature to support Senate Bill 630.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Butt
City of Richmond

cc:
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (AD 15)
Supervisor John Gioia (District 1, Contra Costa County, CA)