City of Santa Rosa

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Assembly Member Darshana Patel
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 237 (Patel) – Crimes: Threats

Dear Assembly Member Patel,

MARK STAPP
Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
Vice Mayor

CAROLINE BAÑUELOS
VICTORIA FLEMING
DIANNA MACDONALD
JEFF OKREPKIE
NATALIE ROGERS

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 237, which would strengthen California's penal code to address the growing threat of violent messages made toward public spaces such as schools, workplaces, houses of worship, and other community-serving locations.

As local governments work tirelessly to promote safe, inclusive, and resilient communities, the rise of threats—particularly those shared online or through other digital platforms—has had a destabilizing impact on public safety, mental health, and civic life. Whether or not the perpetrator intends to act on the threat, the fear and disruption caused can be profound and lasting. Unfortunately, current law does not always provide the tools necessary to respond effectively when these threats target community institutions.

AB 237 appropriately expands existing law by recognizing that threats made with reckless disregard for their impact—especially when aimed at vulnerable or high-traffic locations—deserve a strong legal response. The bill also acknowledges the evolving nature of communication, ensuring that threats made through digital or visual means are treated with the same seriousness as traditional verbal threats.

This legislation would empower local law enforcement and prosecutors with clear statutory authority to act when individuals issue credible threats that instill sustained fear in residents and employees across critical spaces. As a city dedicated to protecting our residents, workers, students, and visitors, we see AB 237 as a timely and necessary measure to bolster public safety.

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We appreciate your leadership on this issue and urge your colleagues in the Legislature to join in supporting this important public safety bill. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Dane Hutchings at dhutchings@publicpolicygroup.com or Coby Pizzotti at cpizzotti@publicpolicygroup.com.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark Stapp

Thank you for addressing this issue.

Mark