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April 2, 2014

Senator Ed Hernandez  
State Capitol  
Room 2080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:    SB 983 (HERNANDEZ) - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Hernandez:

This letter serves as the City's notice of opposition to SB983.

As you know, municipal budgets have been repeatedly tested over the past several years. Between the Great Recession, unfunded State Mandates (for which cities are still owed millions of dollars by the State) and the loss of redevelopment funds, cities have been forced to develop alternative funding sources to provide crucial services including police, fire, paramedics and other life-safety services.

The City of Manhattan Beach is no different. With the effects of realignment (AB109) on our community, we too must find the resources to protect our residents and their families. One such method is the contractual agreement we entered into with a card lock system provider which generates a significant amount of money with which we fund essential services. This revenue provides funding for three police officers during a time of increasing criminal impact upon our citizens. If enacted, SB983 will make it more difficult for us to afford the very protections we need in this realignment era.

Additionally, these funds, which the City has been receiving since 2010, have been built into the City's budget and forecast, and are based on existing State law. We have committed to service levels and labor contracts based on these revenues. SB983 would result in a substantial financial hardship.

Finally, there may be significant legal issues associated with SB983 and any reallocation of Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax, given the passage of Proposition 1A which the voters overwhelmingly approved in 2004.

For these reasons, the City of Manhattan Beach opposes SB983.

Thank you for your attention to our position. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions. I may be reached at (310) 802-5053.

Sincerely,

Amy Thomas-Howorth  
Mayor

cc: Senators and Staff, Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
Senator Ted Lieu  
Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi