



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8602
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 905 – Unlawful Entry of a Vehicle (SUPPORT)

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our support for Senate Bill (SB) 905, which would clarify the definition of auto burglary as entering a vehicle unlawfully with the intent to commit theft and close a legal loophole to hold auto burglars more accountable.

Car break-ins are a problem that continues to plague cities across California. The current state of California's auto burglary statute is not up to par for keeping residents safe in their own neighborhoods. Currently, proof that a vehicle was locked is required to establish the crime of auto burglary, even if a vehicle's window is broken. SB 905 would create a new and separate crime of forced entry into a vehicle with intent to commit theft.

Car break-in numbers are reaching record highs in a multitude of California cities. Despite this, many cases are unable to see prosecution due to the fact that prosecutors must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the vehicle that was broken into was locked. It is harmful to the safety of our cities and to victims of car break-ins that these crimes cannot be adequately dealt with. This bill would close this loophole in the Penal Code and allow law enforcement and prosecutors to bring justice to the victims of car burglaries.

The city supports state legislation that preserves the safety, security, and well-being of our residents, workers, businesses and visitors. We are pleased to support SB 905 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn'.

Keith Blackburn
Mayor
City of Carlsbad

CC: Members and Staff of the Senate Committee on Public Safety
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38