



Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition
634 S. Spring St. Suite 821
Los Angeles, CA 90014

213-629-2142
www.la-bike.org

May 22, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
Public Safety Committee

City Hall, Room 1010

200 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email to: Michael.Espinosa@lacity.org

Re: CF #17-0863 - Bicycle Registration

Dear Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee Members:

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) works to make all communities in Los Angeles County a healthy, safe, and fun place to ride a bike. To that end, we understand the importance of bicycle registration and the reporting of bicycle theft.

LACBC appreciates the intention and thought put into this motion. As it acknowledges, previous requirements around bicycle registration created negative consequences in some communities; namely, harassment of people on bikes by enforcement under the pretext of bicycle registration requirements. This issue is especially of concern in low-income communities, immigrant communities, and communities of color.

At the same time, we know that people with stolen bikes are more likely to be reconnected with them if their bikes are registered, the owner knows the serial number, and the owner reports the bicycle theft to law enforcement. We fully support efforts to make registration more readily available and to educate and encourage people to record their bicycle serial numbers. We also support encouragement and education around the reporting of bicycle theft, including outreach and working and/or contracting with retailers, schools, and bicycle organizations to ensure broad and deep bicycle community engagement on this issue.

As such, LACBC urges the committee to move the recommendations of this motion forward, but only so long as the registration program is *voluntary*. We believe that a mandatory program will lead to the same issues that occurred previously, and may cause more harm than good in low income communities, immigrant communities, and communities of color. We know that the problem of biking while black or brown is real, and we do not want to further exacerbate this problem.

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Thank you for your consideration on this matter. We hope to continue being a resource to you in this and other issues. Please let us know if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Jansen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Jansen
Executive Director
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Cc: Honorable Councilmember Mitchell Englander, Chair, Council District 12
Honorable Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Council District 13
Honorable Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Council District 3
Honorable Councilmember David E. Ryu, Council District 4
Honorable Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, Council District 7
General Manager Seleta Reynolds, Department of Transportation