



Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

January 29, 2021

Senator Bob Wieckowski
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 274

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

This letter is on behalf of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, a grassroots community group working to expose and end harmful police surveillance programs. Our members regularly attend and provide public comment at meetings of public agencies, sharing research, testimony, and analysis on law enforcement practices.

We write in support of SB 274, which would expand access to public meetings by requiring agencies to provide notice of agendas and associated documents through email rather than solely postal mail. This bill will strengthen the Brown Act, which required government agencies to provide prior notice of the time, place, and subject matter of upcoming meetings. Enacted in 1953, the Brown Act also required local agencies to mail agenda packets to the public when requested. While many agencies provide these packets by email rather than mail, some continue to solely require mail, often also charging recipients the service cost of sending materials by mail. This is an unnecessary and easily exploitable burden.

SB 274 will address that problem with the common sense fix of requiring local agencies to email agenda packets if a person requests the documents to be provided in that form. Adding this email option will help modernize the Brown Act and improve people's ability to learn about, attend, and monitor public meetings.

We are grateful for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Hamid Khan
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition
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