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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 20, 2003

Assemblymember Sharon Runner (R-Lancaster) has recently introduced Assembly Bill 327 (AB 327) to increase the minimum fine to \$500 for violating parking privileges for persons with disabilities. Current law has punished violators of the disable person placard program with a fine of \$250. This bill doubles the minimum fine. The disabled community has reported an increase in the number of violators who are illegally parking in handicap parking spaces at malls, workplaces, banks, courthouses, schools and in front of businesses. This fine increase will act as a deterrent to these scofflaws.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors support AB 327 and direct the Chief Administrative Office to send correspondence to our Los Angeles County Delegation of State Assemblymembers and Senators, and to Governor Gray Davis urging quick passage and early enactment of this legislation.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

Varona - Ruben



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Fifth District

May 19, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 327 (RUNNER) – DISABLED PARKING SPACE VIOLATIONS (ITEM NO. 104-D, AGENDA OF MAY 20, 2003)

Item No. 104-D on the May 20, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to support AB 327 (Runner) and to send a five signature letter to the Los Angeles County Delegation of State Assembly members and Senators and to Governor Gray Davis urging quick passage and early enactment of AB 327.

As introduced on February 7, 2003, AB 327 would raise the fines from \$250 to \$500 for improper use of disabled persons' distinguishing license plates or placards, or illegally parking in a stall or space designated for disabled persons. It will also allow the court to suspend a fine if the convicted person lawfully possessed but failed to display a valid distinguishing license plate or placard and allows fines to be paid in installments if the court determines that the defendant is unable to pay the entire amount in one payment.

According to the Author's office, current punishments for the abuse of disabled placards were established in 1992 and are failing to serve as an effective deterrent. The relatively low level of minimum fines encourages scofflaws to take their chances when faced with otherwise limited parking opportunities. The intent of AB 327 is to increase the fine so it will serve as a greater deterrent but it will also generate local revenues and encourage rigorous enforcement of existing restrictions.

There is no Board policy on increasing fines for misdemeanors, therefore, a position on AB 327 is a matter for Board policy determination.

Each Supervisor
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AB 327 is sponsored by the Author and is supported by the California League of Cities and the National Federation of the Blind. There is no opposition on record. AB 327 passed the Assembly on an 80 to 0 vote and was sent to the Senate on April 22, 2003 where it awaits a committee assignment.

DEJ: GK
MAL:JL:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Sheriff
District Attorney
Office of Independent Review