AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH July 15, 2025 AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

## Support for Senate Bill 627 (Weiner): No Secret Police Act State and Federal

## legislation enhancing accountability during immigration enforcement

In Los Angeles County, we have seen federal immigration agents wearing masks and balaclavas as they conduct raids in our communities, while also covering their badges and identification numbers.<sup>1</sup> This practice spreads fear throughout the community as members of the public cannot verify who these individuals are or if they have any cause to be present or participating in the actions they are undertaking. When officers cover their faces, badges, names, and other identifying information, they evade accountability and circumvent the transparency required to maintain the public's trust.

The power of our law enforcement entities at all levels is derived from the trust of communities <u>which</u> whom they are intended to serve. Masking their faces while conducting operations with no discernable reason undermines the public's trust in law enforcement—, making it less likely that people will report crimes and testify in court, and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hesson, Ted, et al. "Los Angeles ICE Raids Fuel Controversy over Masked Agents." *Reuters*, 9 June 2025, www.reuters.com/world/us/los-angeles-ice-raids-fuel-controversy-over-masked-agents-2025-06-09/. Accessed 17 June 2025.

more likely that communities will continue to turn away from law enforcement in times of need.

In response, Senator Scott Weiner of San Francisco County and Senator Jesse Arreguín of Alameda County introduced Senate Bill (SB) 627, the "No Secret Police Act." Their legislation would prohibit law enforcement officers from wearing any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties. The bill defines <u>a</u> law enforcement officers ands any officer of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency, or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency. By supporting this legislation, we can-bring restore transparency and accountability-back to theseour communities and strengthen the public's trust in our government.

Additionally, the lack of identification has opened the door to nefarious actors posing as federal immigration enforcement. In the City of Huntington Park, "the Huntington Park Police Department arrested a man who they suspect was trying to pose as a federal immigration agent and was in possession of an unlicensed handgun, copies of U.S. Homeland Security removal notices and a list of radio codes for U.S. Customs and Border Protection."<sup>2</sup> In response, Senator Sasha Renée Pérez of Los Angeles County introduced SB 805 "No Vigilantes Act." This bill expands laws against impersonating a police officer by expanding the scope of existing impersonation laws, requiring on-duty law enforcement to visibly display identification that includes either their name or badge number, authorizes employees of any law enforcement agency to request

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Vives, Ruben. "Man Possibly Posing as Border Patrol Agent Arrested in Huntington Park." *Los Angeles Times*, 27 June 2025, www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-27/possible-fake-border-patrol-agent-arrested-huntington-park. Accessed 30 June 2025.

identification from someone claiming to be law enforcement, and prohibits fugitive recovery agents from engaging in any form of immigration enforcement.

In response to these same concerns, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez of New York, supported by Los Angeles County Delegation Members Congresswomen Luz Rivas and Laura Friedman, proposed House of Representatives (H.R.) 4004 "No Anonymity in Immigration Enforcement Act of 2025." This bill would prohibit Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from wearing facial coverings during enforcement actions, require agents to wear clearly marked clothing displaying their name and ICE affiliation during arrest, detention, questioning, or when conducting raids or investigations, mandate written justification for any use of a mask, and require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to report annually to Congress on any disciplinary actions or complaints related to the legislation.

On July 8, 2025, United States Senator Alex Padilla of California introduced Senate (S.) 2212 "Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement (VISIBLE) Act of 2025." This bill would require immigration enforcement officers to display clearly legible identification, including their agency name or initials and either their name or badge number, in a manner that remains visible and unobscured by tactical gear or clothing, prohibit non-medical face coverings that obscure identity or facial visibility, with exceptions for environmental hazards or covert operations, and require DHS to establish disciplinary procedures for violations.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

<u>1. D</u>direct the County's Sacramento Advocates to support <u>Senate BillSB</u> 627 and <u>SB 805.</u>

2. Direct the County's Washington, D.C. Advocates to support H.R. 4004 and S. 2212, and

<u>3.</u> <u>F</u>further direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to send a five-signature letter in support of the <u>each</u> bill to the respective authors <u>Senator Scott Weiner</u>.

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