

Date of Hearing: July 8, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

ACR 97 (Patterson) – As Amended July 1, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Officer Phia Vang Memorial Interchange

**SUMMARY:** Designates the interchange at State Route 180 and Temperance Avenue in Fresno County as the “Officer Phia Vang Memorial Interchange.” Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Recounts the life of Officer Phia Vang.
- 2) Designates the interchange at State Route 180 and Temperance Avenue in Fresno County as the “Officer Phia Vang Memorial Interchange.”
- 3) Requests that the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation, and upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the costs, to erect the signs.

**EXISTING LAW:** Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown, but the resolution requests that Caltrans only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** Officer Phia Vang was born on August 6, 1970, in Nan Phakke, Mouang Phoun, Vangvieng province in the country of Laos to Zay Pao Vang and Mee Her. Phia immigrated to the United States in 1980 after escaping to Thailand in 1975 at the end of the Secret War in Laos. After living in Denver for two years, the Vang family moved to Fresno, California. Phia graduated from McLane High School in 1989 and joined the Fresno City Police Academy and completed his training in 1991. He became a Reserve Police Officer in 1992 and was hired by the Fresno Police Department in 1993, where he was assigned to the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium. On February 4, 2019, after 26 years on the job, Phia was killed by an intoxicated driver who collided with his vehicle. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Ker Lee, and four children: Corey, Joshua, Brittney, and Ethan.

According to the author, “Officer Vang was a loved and respected member of the Fresno Police Department and the Hmong community. His life was tragically cut short when a wrong-way driver struck his vehicle as he was on his way home from work. ACR 97 will designate the interchange at State Route 180 and Temperance Avenue as the ‘Officer Phia Vang Memorial Interchange’, so that we may always remember and honor a man who dedicated his life to serving his community.”

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Peace Officer Research Association of California (PORAC)

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** David Sforza / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093