



**Date:** December 3, 2013

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*  
Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, Second District *sl*  
Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District *sn*

**Subject:** Regulation of donation collection bins

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to regulate outdoor donation collection bins, including requiring a City permit for the outdoor donation bin, written permission of the property owner where the donation bin is located, information be visibly posted on the collection bin about the organization's non-profit status and contact information, and that the bins must be attended by an employee of the non-profit organization operating the donation bin during all times that donations are accepted.

**BACKGROUND:**

A growing trend in many communities, including Long Beach, is the placement of collection bins for people to donate items such as clothing, shoes, electronic waste or other household goods.

Currently, there are no regulations in Long Beach for the placement and supervision of these donation collection bins.

Some organizations provide staffing for these collection bins. These employees interact with the residents, providing donation receipts, making sure that only appropriate items are accepted and that no hazardous materials are left, and keeping the area clean and free of dumped items.

Other organizations have donation collection bin locations that are unattended. If the bins fill up before the organization empties it, items may be left outside the bins, resulting in additional nuisance issues, such as graffiti, trash and rodents. There is also no ability to control what gets left in or near the bins, including hazardous materials, or from preventing illegal dumping from taking place at these locations.

By requiring the bins to be attended, not only does it provide jobs to local residents, but it helps keep the area where these donation bins are located clean and free of nuisances and illegally dumped items.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No fiscal impact.