



City of Long Beach

Office of Vice Mayor Robert Garcia
Councilmember, First District

Date: September 17, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Robert Garcia, District 1
Councilmember Gary DeLong, District 3
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, District 4
Councilmember Steven Neal, District 9

Subject: Technology and Innovation Commission

Background:

Over the last few years, the City of Long Beach has shown leadership on technology issues. We were named a top-ten digital city two years in a row due to our investment in technology, including our Go Long Beach smartphone application, our new online permits and licenses, the use of social media, an open government initiative, an online city contract database, free WiFi initiatives for our parks and libraries, and upgrading our technology throughout the city.

To ensure that we continue providing cutting edge services to our residents, visitors, and businesses, and that we maintain, expand and capitalize on our leadership position, Long Beach should create a Technology and Innovation Commission. Long Beach has always been ahead of the curve in creating new commissions to address important areas of public policy as they emerge. When modernizing our law enforcement practices required citizen oversight, we created the Citizen's Police Complain Commission. When the public and our elected officials recognized the profound importance of environmental stewardship and sustainability, we created the Sustainable City Commission. And now as technology has become so prominent in our lives, and such an essential part of our economic survival, it is time to create a Technology and Innovation Commission.

The Commission would be comprised of Long Beach residents with special skills, knowledge, expertise and interest in technological innovation, and would be able to advise the Council on new technology, evaluate proposals for investing in technological innovation and infrastructure, and serve as a clearinghouse for new ideas that can enhance the City's use of technology and its place in our economy.

Long Beach has incredible potential for growth in the technology sector. With a thriving creative class, our proximity to California's two largest metropolitan areas, our recognized leadership on technology, and our skilled and reliable workforce, we are poised to make great leaps in this area. A citizen's commission is the appropriate forum for airing and evaluating new ideas with the potential to enhance our leadership role and our digital economy. The Commission would be made up of 11 members, 1 from each district, and 2 at-large members for a total of 11. All appointments are made by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

Fiscal Impact:

No significant fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

In accordance with Long Beach Municipal Code Section 2.03.075, request that the City Manager prepare a "fiscal impact analysis report" for review and comment by the Economic Development and Finance Committee at a noticed public meeting as per the above referenced Municipal Code section.