

#16



January 16, 2007

Long Beach City Council  
City Hall, 333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Council Members:

Re: Item #16 City Council Agenda for January 16, 2007 (Recommendation of the Charter Amendment Committee for Certain Amendments to the City Charter)

Citizens for a Better Long Beach, a group formed to sponsor charter reform, congratulates the Council on the time and effort expended to develop these proposals, many of which we support in concept.

However, we urge you not to approve them as submitted. Our opposition is based primarily on two major factors:

1. None of the proposed amendments are sufficiently important, nor include time sensitive features, to warrant including them with the upcoming special 6<sup>th</sup> district election at an additional cost of about \$900,000.
2. The proposals fail to include what we believe to be one of the most fundamental changes needed for more effective city government: city-wide representation on the council. Providing for some city council members to be elected by all the voters will help broaden the council's perspective on issues important to the entire city, enhance voter participation in council elections, and strengthen the council's accountability to all voters.

Therefore, we urge the council to return the proposed amendments to the Charter Amendment Committee for further consideration. We request that the referral include a recommendation for the committee to study and deliberate on changing council membership to include city-wide representation.

Respectfully submitted,

Citizens for a Better Long Beach

Cc: Mayor Bob Foster  
City Attorney Robert Shannon  
City Clerk Larry Herrera