



**Date:** September 22, 2009

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

**From:** Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RG*  
Councilmember Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*  
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*

**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM: Charter Amendment Committee

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We are all aware of the significant needs and inadequate budget concerns for the City of Long Beach. In order for us to discuss our options in a timely manner and knowing that the outcome could require a vote of Long Beach citizens, a charter reform meeting should be convened as soon as possible.

During these difficult budget times, it is important to re-examine all funding sources and ensure they reflect the changing economic environment.

For example, Article XII, Sec. 1209 of the City Charter provides for the annual transfer to the Tidelands Operating Fund of not more than ten percent (10%) of the net income of the Harbor Department. The Tidelands Operating Fund allows for expenses only related to the defined Tidelands area.

According to the current Charter language, the transfer to the Tidelands Fund is calculated based on the net revenue, after all of the Port's operating expenses are accounted for. The Harbor Department has indicated that the anticipated Tidelands transfer will be reduced by nearly half within the next two years.

**Recommended Action:**

**Request to convene a meeting of the Charter Amendment Committee to discuss charter reform opportunities and charter-based funding sources, including, but not limited to, revising the Harbor Department transfer to the Tidelands Operating Fund.**