

06-0174



city of
longbeach CA

The Long Beach Challenge

Protecting our Community and Educating our Youth

City of Long Beach
Community Outreach
333 West Ocean Blvd., 13th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

1



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Increasing Demands for Services

- Over the past 25 years, our population has grown almost 36% increasing demand on essential services
- Even as the population of our city and calls for Emergency Medical Service continue to grow, Firefighter staffing levels are lower than 25 years ago
- The City needs up to 300 more police officers to keep pace with population growth
- The Long Beach Public Library has reduced the number of days the Main and neighborhood branches are open by 20% - 30%.

2



Protecting Our Children

- o We need additional funding to monitor registered sex offenders, especially near parks and school grounds
- o Long Beach needs more police on the street to investigate and prevent the gang-related shootings and violence at local high schools
- o We need to make the streets safer for our children by cracking down on speeding and other traffic violations in our neighborhoods

"Our Children need to be able to play in their neighborhoods without fear."

(Police Chief Anthony Batts)

3



Youth Challenges

- o Library programs keep children on the right track before they turn to crime
- o Long Beach City libraries provide more than books - they keep kids off the street and out of trouble
- o Eighty-five percent (85%) of juveniles in jail cannot read above a third-grade level
- o Due to budget cuts, Long Beach's libraries rank near the bottom of the state and the Los Angeles Region when it comes to hours of operation

"When I hear the library is being cut back, it hurts me. My outlet when I saw gangs and violence around me was to go to the library, so don't close that outlet on other youngsters that are growing up in my neighborhood."

(CSULB Student, D. Molina, 19 years old)

4



Priority Needs—Public Safety

- o Increasing the number of police officers
- o Hiring more school police officers to focus on children, sexual-offenders, and gang violence
- o Ensuring rapid response to medical emergencies, by increasing the number of firefighters
- o Improving the ability of police and fire departments to respond quickly to incidents ranging from neighborhood safety needs, natural disasters and possible terrorist attack

5



Challenges Facing Police Services

- o The Long Beach Police Chief says the City needs up to 300 more officers to make the City safer
- o Long Beach has a number of potential terrorist targets, including the Port of Long Beach, the airport, and other critical facilities which need additional protection
- o Long Beach police need to keep up with the City's growing population and the increasing demand for effective police protection

6



Challenges for Our Public Libraries

- o Recently, our Long Beach Library has reduced the days the Main and neighborhood libraries are open from 7 to 5 days per week at Main and from 6 and 5 days to 4 days at neighborhood libraries
- o Our Library's book/materials budget has been reduced by 35%, limiting the number of books, reference materials, periodicals, and other resources that we can purchase

7



Fire and Emergency/9-1-1 Needs

- o We need to improve community preparedness in case of natural disaster and improve emergency/9-1-1 response times
- o We need to improve emergency response times throughout the entire City and provide Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capabilities Citywide
- o Additional firefighters are needed to adequately deal with the terrorist threats of the post 9/11 world

"We need to ensure that we have an adequate number of Firefighters, to respond effectively, when a natural disaster strikes our City."

(Fire Chief Dave Ellis)

8



Local Funding Challenges

- o In the last three years, the City of Long Beach has eliminated over \$92 million from its budget with an additional reduction of \$10 million planned in Fiscal Year 07
- o The State has taken \$200 million from Long Beach over the past 16 years
- o The state and federal governments continue to take local resources that could otherwise be spent on essential city services

9



How can we meet the challenge?

- o The City is considering a potential Public Safety, Libraries and Youth Protection Finance Measure
- o We need to develop real solutions to make sure the quality of life in our community is what residents need
- o Without a local funding measure, no other adequate funding options are available at this time

10

Fiscal Accountability

- o Any potential Measure will include strict fiscal accountability procedures
- o Annual independent audits with published results, to guarantee that all funds are spent as promised
- o All funds would be placed in a trust fund and no money from the Measure would be spent on bureaucracy or administrators' salaries

11

When will an election be held?

- o We are still in the planning process and getting more input from the community, but we are considering November 2006
- o We will only move forward with an election after City officials develop a fiscally responsible plan that adequately meets our needs

12



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How can you get involved?

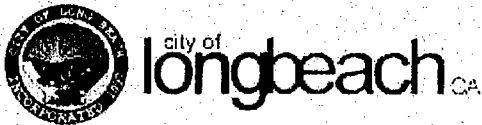
- ✓ Fill out the feedback form today; tell us what you think our City's priorities should be.
- ✓ Agree to help with a community outreach.
- ✓ Do you belong to other organizations that should provide input? Let us know!
- ✓ Stay informed and help in the future.

For further information, contact: (562) 570-6475 or outreach@longbeach.gov

*Alternate Language or Format Request
Petición de Idioma o Formato Alternativo
αλτερνατιβη γλωσσικη αιτηρηση*

*This information is available in an alternate format by calling 562-570-6475.
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Submitted at 3/21/2000 BOC



Community Feedback Survey

Please take a moment to let us know what you think the funding priorities should be among the following city services. We want to hear from you as we develop our plans for our community.

Please assign a priority to the items below: 1 = low priority, 2 = medium priority, 3 = high priority

- Expanding neighborhood based policing programs
Tracking and monitoring sex offenders
Expanding anti-gang programs
Hiring additional police officers and firefighters
Ensuring Main library and all neighborhood libraries are open 6 days a week
Continuing library reading, literacy and teen programs
Restoring the ability of our libraries to purchase new books and resources
Providing computers and access to technology
Improving ability of the City to respond to a terrorist attack
Improving 9-1-1/emergency response times
Improving readiness and response to natural disasters

Other Priorities, Questions or Comments:

Please keep me informed.

Name: ZIP Code (Required):
Address: City/State/Zip:
Phone (day): Email:
Phone (eve):

Please return this survey to:
City of Long Beach
Attn: Community Outreach
333 West Ocean Blvd., 13th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802
Fax: (562) 570-6583
Phone: (562) 570-6475
Website: www.longbeach.gov
Email: outreach@longbeach.gov

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Submitted @ BOC 3/21/2006

The Long Beach Challenge
Protecting our Community and Educating our Youth

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
About Public Safety and Library Needs**

Q: *What are the demands on Long Beach's police department?*

A: In the current fiscal year's budget the City only hired 15 new police officers, even though the Long Beach Police Chief says the City needs up to 300 more to make the City safer from crime. We need additional funding to help the Long Beach police to keep up with the City's growing population and the increasing demand for effective police protection.

Q: *What challenges do our Long Beach Public Libraries face?*

A: Over the past three years, local library hours were cut 20% to 30% from 5 and 6 days to 4 days of service per week at neighborhood libraries and from 7 days to 5 days per week at the Main library, and 35% of the book/materials budget was cut. Unfortunately, because of these cuts, Long Beach's libraries rank near the bottom of the state and the Los Angeles region when it comes to hours of operation.

Q: *How do these issues affect Long Beach children and youth?*

A: These issues are connected, and need to be addressed together to make a real difference in the lives of our young people. Our City needs more police on the street to keep our neighborhoods safe, to provide safe passage to and from school and to prevent the gang-related shootings and violence that plague many local high schools. We need additional funding to monitor registered sex offenders, protect parks and school grounds, and investigate and prevent home robberies.

A strong library system provides more than books. Libraries are not only learning environments, but keep kids off the street and out of trouble. Eighty-five percent (85%) of juveniles in jail cannot read above the third grade level. More than five thousand children and teens use the City's libraries each week for reading and literacy programs, teen programs and school-group visits. We need to ensure that these programs are available to keep kids on the right track, before they become delinquent and turn to crime.

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Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
About Public Safety and Library Needs

Q: *What about 9-1-1/fire needs?*

A: Long Beach has a number of potential terrorist targets, including the Port of Long Beach, the airport, and other critical facilities. Additional firefighters are needed to adequately deal with terrorist threats close to potential targets. We also need to ensure that we have the firefighters we need to handle natural disasters in our City and improve emergency/9-1-1 response times.

Q: *What is the Long Beach Challenge?*

A: In the last three years, the City of Long Beach has eliminated over \$92 million from the budget and will need to make another \$10 million in reductions in Fiscal Year 07 through continued optimization of City programs and services. In addition, the State has taken \$200 million from Long Beach over the past 16 years even though our population and demand for services continue to increase. Unfortunately, no adequate funding options are available at this time to address some of our most urgent needs. We need to develop real solutions to make sure the quality of life in our community is what residents deserve and expect.

Q: *How is the City planning on meeting the challenge?*

A: We want to get more input from the community on priorities and will develop a plan to address these needs in the most fiscally responsible way possible. A potential finance measure, similar to those in cities throughout the state to ask for voter approval of funding for vital city services, may be considered at the end of this process.

Q: *How can I get more information about meeting the challenge?*

A: Please visit our website at www.longbeach.gov and follow the link provided to fill out our Community Feedback Form and let us know your priorities. If you have questions, please contact City of Long Beach, Community Outreach at **(562) 570-6475** or email us at outreach@longbeach.gov.

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