



Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach
920 Atlantic Ave., Suite 102 Long Beach CA 90813

September 2, 2016

Councilman Al Austin
Councilwoman Stacy Mungo
Councilwoman Suzie Price
Long Beach City Hall, 14th Floor
333. W. Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Councilmembers Austin, Mungo, and Price:

I am writing on behalf of Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach to express our support for the establishment of an Office of Equity within the Department of Health and Human Services, and to request that the Budget Oversight Committee recommend that City Council fund the department to ensure that the office can get off the ground.

In a to/from/for memo dated August 16, 2016, Health Department Director Kelly Colopy outlined several key positions needed to support the development of the Office of Equity, but funds for these positions have yet to be allocated in the City's 2016-2017 budget. We request that at a minimum the administrative analyst position of \$130,000 is funded in the coming fiscal year in order to begin the important work of establishing this office.

As has been lifted up in this year's budget discussions, the Department of Health and Human Services is an economic driver for our city, taking in very few public funds and generating millions in return. As we ask the department to take on this work, we must provide it with the necessary resources.

Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach looks forward to working with the City Council, Department of Health and Human Services, and other city staff in making the Office of Equity a success. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine E. Petit, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach

CC: Mayor Robert Garcia
City Manager Patrick West