



Date: May 20, 2008
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RJ*
Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Charter Amendment Committee

I would like to request a meeting of the Charter Amendment Committee be called to discuss charter reform opportunities for the November 2008 ballot.

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 called this month.

Article XII, Sec. 1209 of the City Charter provides for the annual transfer to the Tideland 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.

With the projected growth of triple the current port activity in the next 15 years and the port projects that will be required to handle that growth, it may be time to readjust those numbers for an increased benefit to the City of Long Beach and its citizens.

A review of all other suggestions that were presented in 2006 would also be appropriate at this time. As we discussed, the charter is a living document that should be continually reviewed and presented to the public for their input and decisions for change.

Recommended Action:

Request the Mayor to convene a meeting of the Charter Amendment Committee to discuss charter reform opportunities for the November 2008 ballot, including potentially revising the Harbor Department transfer to the Tideland Operating Fund.