



**R-20**

**Date:** April 5, 2005

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

**From:** Patrick O'Donnell, 4<sup>th</sup> District Councilmember *POD*

**Subject:** **Unwanted Solicitations**

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### **Recommended Action**

Request a report from the City Attorney's office within 45 days regarding practices in other cities, and legal options within the Long Beach Municipal Code to address the challenge of unwanted solicitations on private property.

In addition, request a report on the mechanisms the City has in place to monitor that these solicitors have legitimate Long Beach business licenses.

### **Background**

Residents throughout the City are harassed daily by unwanted flyers, advertisements, business cards, and what many have called "junk" on their doorsteps. My office receives calls weekly from frustrated residents looking for solutions to the "piles of trash" left on their fences and doorsteps. I understand firsthand the concerns residents have. I too have been frustrated with the number of unwanted papers thrown about my front lawn daily.

These unwanted solicitations have in many ways become not only an issue of blight and littering, but also of public safety. Residents are concerned when they go out of town, even for short periods of time, that their homes become obvious targets for burglary. The cause being the proliferation of solicitations strewn on their lawns and doorsteps – a clear signal that no one is home – an invitation for crime.

My office has recommended to frustrated residents that they place a "No Soliciting" sign on their fences and doors, but this has not stopped the flow of leaflets and ads. Some residents have called the businesses or spoken directly to the individuals leaving the materials behind to ask that they no longer receive flyers. Generally these interactions leave residents frustrated and wondering if the companies even have a legitimate Long Beach business license.