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To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>

Subject: For 7 Aug 2018 Joint Meeting of Charter Amendment Committee and Long Beach City Council : Due respect to voters must come first!

For 7 Aug 2018 Joint Meeting of Charter Amendment Committee and Long Beach City Council

Dear City Council members, Mayor, and Fellow Citizens of Long Beach:

I have just sent you a letter on behalf of CARP - Citizens About Responsible Planning. As that letter notes, three key concerns - fiscal responsibility, public involvement, and due respect to voters - lead CARP to strongly oppose Council now placing any measures on any ballot.

This present letter, written on my own behalf, focuses on the third and gravest concern: due respect to voters.

For Measure M - the most recent Council-sponsored ballot measure - city management ran a costly 'information' campaign which perpetrated two intolerably disrespectful massive injustices on Long Beach voters:

Injustice #1: Deliberately unequal treatment. The campaign targeted mailers to 43% of voter households. These households were treated as privileged and deserving of the tax-paid (and presumably useful and important) information mailers, while the remaining 57% were treated as unworthy 'deplorables', as if without rights to the tax-paid information.

Injustice #2: Omission of the most essential voter information. Both the mailers and the city's special Measure M website in fact omitted the most essential information for voters: the measure's actual text (or even a link to it)! Such omission contradicted both the city's prime duty to help voters know directly (not merely provide someone's interpretation) what they are actually voting on, and the well-known long-time practice of the California Secretary of State, whereby voters are directly shown, or can readily access, the full texts of statewide propositions.

(The existence and gravity of these gross injustices is quite independent of pros or cons concerning Measure M itself or concerning accuracy of claims made on the fliers.)

The Council is responsible for the 'information' campaign and its injustices. Therefore, before sponsoring yet more ballot measures and campaigns, Council must first make substantive amends:

- Council must apologize publicly to Long Beach voters for both gross injustices.

- Council must also act affirmatively to empower voters. For instance: re-instate citizens' ability to agendaize items for Council discussion - a charter right whose practical exercise was subverted in a sneak 1996 Council action (LBReport 'amnesia file', 7/72018).

- In case City staff in fact acted independently, without Council knowledge or approval, then Council must terminate the City Manager or otherwise severely discipline staff.

In conclusion: New ballot measures are warranted only after Council makes substantive amends for the injustices perpetrated by the Measure M information campaign.

Sincerely,

xxx

Joe Weinstein (Joseph M. Weinstein, Ph.D.)