



R-23

Date: August 24, 2004

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Resolution in Support of SB 1875 (Alpert)**

Long Beach City College has been a great educational institution within the City of Long Beach. It has provided many of our residents with the necessary tools to advance their careers or venture into a new one. In order to continue offering its students and our residents such educational support, a consistent stream of funding is necessary. However, there are many inequities in the current funding of all community colleges for the following reasons:

- a) Funds are not generated with sufficient sensitivity to the real costs of providing instructional services
- b) Unjustifiable differences exist in revenues among the districts;
- c) Local districts have limited flexibility to raise additional revenues;
- d) While the student fee revenue is kept by each of the community college districts, this revenue serves as an offset to General Fund apportionment funding rather than as an enhancement; and
- e) The state-level statutory mission of the community colleges is so broad that the institutions, by necessity, are under-funded.

SB 1875 (Alpert) would provide that equalization funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act not be allocated to districts until the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges develops an equalization plan that is approved by the Director of Finance. The bill would require the equalization plan to define districts as large, medium-sized, or small, as specified. It would describe the computations to be made, and the information to be collected and analyzed, by the chancellor in devising the equalization plan. It would provide that, after the approval of the plan, the equalization funds may be allocated to the appropriate districts.

Suggested Action: Request City Attorney to draft a Resolution in support of AB 1875 (Alpert).