



R-20

Date: April 19, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Dan Baker, Second District
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District
Councilwoman Laura Richardson, Sixth District
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District

Handwritten signatures and initials: "DB", "PO", "LR", "TR" and "for all" written vertically.

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Request a City of Long Beach Proclamation to Commemorate the 30-Year Anniversary of the Killing Fields and to Recognize April 17 as a Day of Mourning

Long Beach is home to many Cambodians who sought refuge from an auto-genocide historically known as the Killing Fields. The atrocities of the Killing Fields began on April 17, 1975 when the Khmer Rouge, a communist guerrilla group, took power in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, forced all city dwellers into the countryside and to labor camps. During their rule, it is estimated that 2 million Cambodians died by starvation, torture or execution. This represented approximately 30% of the Cambodian population during that time. Cambodia was devastated during the Khmer Rouge years and the country is still faced with the daunting task of healing physically, mentally and economically.

The scars of the Khmer Rouge massacres are borne by survivors and the families of victims living in Long Beach and throughout the world. We ask the City of Long Beach to join the international community in commemorating the 30-year anniversary of Killing Fields and to declare April 17th as a day of mourning.

Suggested Action: Adopt a Proclamation commemorating the 30-year anniversary of the Killing Fields and to recognize April 17th as a Day of Mourning.

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