



Date: February 19, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor Foster and Members of the City Council

From: Gary DeLong, Councilmember, 3rd District
Dr. Suja Lowenthal, Councilmember, 2nd District
Steve Neal, Councilmember, 9th District

Subject: **Moratorium against Mortuaries and Crematoriums in Long Beach**

On September 19, 2012, Amy J. Bodek, the Director of Development Services for Long Beach, issued a memorandum to my office in regards to a mortuary whose establishment in the Belmont Heights neighborhood created substantial constituent concern this past summer. In that memo, Development Services concluded that this permitted mortuary at 3501 E. 7th Street, Long Beach, CA 90814, dba the Belmont Heights Funeral Center is currently able to construct a crematorium on their premises as a matter of right since the City's current Zoning Regulations treat such crematoriums as an "accessory use" to a mortuary. (LBMC, Chapter 21.31: Commercial Districts, Table 32-1).

In several of the City's commercial districts, the City's Zoning Regulations allow the establishment of mortuaries (and associated crematoriums) as a matter of right without any *discretionary review* by the Planning Commission or the City Council as to whether such a use is appropriate for in a particular neighborhood setting or whether such a use would have a detrimental impact to the quality of life, comfort and/or safety of surrounding residents. The appropriateness of the City's current Zoning Regulations as they relate to the establishment of mortuaries and their associated uses has not been studied by the Planning Commission or the City Council in many years. Given the recent concern expressed by residents and others, it is appropriate at this time to have the Planning Staff and the Planning Commission study this issue to determine if the City's current regulations are in need of revision.

Recommendation

Request that the City Council adopt a minute order initiating a one-year, citywide moratorium against mortuaries and accessory crematoriums and directing the Planning Staff and the Planning Commission to undertake a study pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.50 to determine whether or not the City's current zoning regulations are appropriate or need further review or modification.

Fiscal Impact

There is no significant fiscal impact.



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

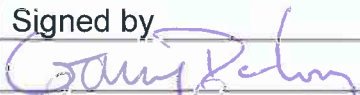


REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: Monday, February 11, 2013
To: Larry Herrera, City Clerk
From: Gary DeLong, Councilmember, 3rd District
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of February 19, 2013

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Request that the City Council adopt a minute order initiating a one-year, citywide moratorium against mortuaries and accessory crematoriums and directing the Planning Staff and the Planning Commission to undertake a study pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.50 to determine whether or not the City's current zoning regulations are appropriate or need further review or modification.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
3	Gary DeLong	
2	Dr. Suja Lowenthal	
9	Steve Neal	

Attachment: Staff Report dated February 19, 2013

CC: Office of the Mayor