



Date: October 11, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor O'Neill and Members of the City Council

From: Frank Colonna, Councilmember, Third District *FC*
Val Lerch, Councilmember, Ninth District *Val*

Subject: **Integration of SB70 – Vocational Education Law**

Background

Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Jack Scott (D-Altadena) are leading California in an effort to return vocational education to our schools. By signing SB70, the Governor has committed \$20 million for grants to middle schools, high schools and community college partnerships to rebuild and enhance Career Technical Education.

Vocational Education offers students unique opportunities to learn trades and provides insight into various career options. Many of the programs also keep our youth in after school programs and off the streets. The legislation will support:

- "Quick Start" programs which offer students experience and skills in specific industries including transportation, manufacturing, biotechnologies, environmental technology, health occupations and multi-media fields.
- "Capacity Building" projects which reinvigorate the presence and quality of vocational education by improving course offerings, aligning programs and increasing communication with business and industry.
- Career exploration programs for middle school pupils that help students and parents in planning their high school coursework with an eye to the future.

As strong supporters of vocational education in our schools, we would like city staff to inquire if there are any opportunities for our school to career program to benefit from this legislation, and to support Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach City College with any efforts that they may be undertaking to enhance vocational education.

Suggested Action

Request the City Manager to report to the council on any opportunities that our city programs could benefit from under SB70, and to support LBUSD and LBCC in their efforts to acquire these state grants.