



Date: September 13, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor O'Neill and City Council Members
From: Frank Colonna, Council Member, Third District *FC*
Subject: Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

Recent events of Hurricane Katrina remind us of our vulnerability to natural disasters. No region of our country is immune from the effects of a natural disaster. This terrible calamity that has wreaked havoc and brought misery to many citizens is an important reminder of the necessity of being prepared.

The City of Long Beach has experienced numerous natural disasters, such as the earthquake of 1933 to a hurricane a few years later that devastated many homes along our coastline. Our community is not immune to natural disasters including the recent Tsunami that occurred in Asia.

We must continue to be vigilant, informed, and prepared in order to warn our citizens and respond to any type of natural disaster. It is important to have the capacity such as personnel, supplies, and equipment to act quickly and effectively to protect life and property.

At all costs we must avoid what described the events of Hurricane Katrina as a fundamental lack of preparedness, and an uninformed and ill-equipped public response.

Suggested Action: I respectfully request the City Manager to present a report to the City Council concerning the City's emergency and disaster preparedness within 30 days.