



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Office of Gerrie Schipske
Councilwoman, Fifth District
Memorandum

NB-27

Date: April 24, 2007

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Lowering City of Long Beach Flag at Half-Staff for the Duration of the Iraq/Afghanistan War To Honor the Deaths and Continued Loss of Life in that Conflict

DISCUSSION

Flying federal, state, and city flags at half-staff (also referred to as "half-mast" from naval history) is a symbolic gesture of showing grief. Only the President of the United States or the Governor of the State may order the federal and state flags to be at half-staff to honor the death of a national or state figure. Just last week, President Bush ordered the lowering of the flags at half-staff in honor of the men and women who were murdered on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

The federal flag code does not prohibit the City of Long Beach from lowering its city flag at half-staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Attorney to prepare a resolution acknowledging the sacrifice of the 3,315 men and women and directing that the official flag of the City of Long Beach be lowered to half-staff in their honor and remain lowered until the duration of the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts as a symbolic gesture of our grief.