



Date: June 7, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilwoman Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *R.G.*
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District *P.O.D.*

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Public Safety Impact Fee

Long Beach's public safety resources are already overburdened to meet the current needs of our City.

The City is already well below the national average of police officers per capita. Long Beach currently has 1.9 officers per 1,000 residents, compared to the national average of 2.5, or even Los Angeles, which has 2.4 officers per 1,000.

New commercial and residential developments increase the demands on our police and fire services. The City must take a responsible approach to ensure that the public safety costs are covered by the new developments.

Jurisdictions throughout California have enacted impact fees to offset new development impacts on public safety. Based on a March 2004 survey, there are eleven jurisdictions in California with public safety impact fees. Others are currently in the process of preparing "nexus" studies to support public safety impact fees.

Impact fees are regulated by state law known as the "Mitigation Fee Act". Prior to adopting an impact fee, a study must be prepared demonstrating a "nexus" or reasonable connection between the fee amount and the impact the new development will have. According to staff, this type of nexus study takes approximately 4-6 months to prepare.

Recommended Action:

Request the City Manager to conduct a nexus study as provided for in the Mitigation Fee Act to begin the process of implementing a public safety impact fee for new development in the City.