



Date: October 4, 2005

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

From: Frank Colonna, Councilmember, Third District *FC*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM - City Support for Long Beach, Mississippi**

Background

Hurricane Katrina has devastated our Gulf Coast, and along with it the small city of Long Beach, Mississippi.

Long Beach, a coastal town on the eastern edge of the state on the Gulf Coast, 17 miles west of Biloxi, Miss., was situated close enough to Katrina's landfall to take a massive hit from the storm.

The city of 17,000 residents was left in shambles and 30 feet underwater. Some reports state that as much as 90 percent of the city's buildings were destroyed in the hurricane. Long Beach, Mississippi, which describes itself as the "Radish Capital of the World," needs as much help in the recovery effort as possible.

Press Telegram reporter Jason Gewirtz notes that the city has also lost 75 percent of its tax base. In his own words, Long Beach, Miss., Mayor Billy Skellie has said, "We are devastated."

It would seem appropriate that we, Long Beach, CA would come to the aid of our Southern Long Beach sister city.

Suggested Action

Request the City Attorney to draft a resolution that would show our support for Long Beach, Mississippi, in recovery efforts, and to encourage residents to give to the devastated city.

Request the City Manager to work with the American Red Cross to facilitate a fund that our residents and businesses could send to Long Beach, Mississippi.

Request the City Manager to survey any potential surplus city equipment and or vehicles that could be donated to Long Beach, Mississippi to assist in their recovery efforts.