



**Date:** April 19, 2005

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

**From:** Patrick O'Donnell, 4<sup>th</sup> District Councilmember  
Jackie Kell, Vice-Mayor *JK*

**Subject:** **West Nile Virus Awareness**

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### **Recommended Action**

In recognition of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California's statewide campaign, we respectfully request Council declare the week of April 25 thru May 1, 2005 as "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week."

We further request that the City Manager provide a briefing on the City's current activities and long-term plan, including the coordination with the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, to combat the spread of West Nile Virus.

### **Background**

The State Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control predict that the West Nile Virus will continue to pose a public health threat throughout California in 2005. The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause debilitating illness and death to humans, and has had a devastating impact on our bird population. In 2004, West Nile Virus killed 27 people in California, including one Long Beach resident, and sickened over 800 others.

Residents throughout the city have become increasingly concerned as they witness the effects of the Virus. In addition, the Fourth and Fifth Districts have several open storm drains that have the potential for significant mosquito breeding as well as the accumulation trash and debris. In 2004 the City was overwhelmed with calls from alarmed residents seeking an understanding of their risk for contracting the Virus, and reassurance that the City is addressing the epidemic.

By recognizing this Awareness Week, the City of Long Beach can increase public awareness of the West Nile Virus threat and encourage residents to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites on their property, as well as take necessary precautions when mosquito breeding is high.