



So. Wrigley Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG)

P.O. Box 16325, Long Beach, CA 90806

July 8, 2013

Mayor Bob Foster & Honorable Councilmembers
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Cash for Gold issues

Dear Mayor Bob Foster & Councilmembers:

We the residents and businesses of the 6th district and City of Long Beach are requesting your assistance in addressing a certain issue. The issue is the Cash for Gold businesses which operate in the entire City of Long Beach.

Over the past several years, Long Beach has seen an increase in property crimes, and in many of those crimes jewelry has been one of the primary losses. In addition, there have been many incidents of "necklace snatch" street robberies. One of the possible reasons that jewelry, specifically gold, is being targeted in these crimes is the relative ease with which it is sold.

Stolen jewelry is being sold to "cash for gold" dealers, as well as other secondhand businesses, that have set up shop at jewelry stores and other locations, sometimes temporary, looking to make a fast profit. Some of these dealers operate without a business license, and most of these unlicensed businesses do not document the items they purchase or identify the persons selling them as required of secondhand dealers. Most of the unlicensed businesses also do not hold the purchased jewelry for 30 days as required by law.

To help in deterring criminals from stealing and selling of stolen jewelry, the City should consider stricter regulation of businesses buying gold, silver and other precious metals and stones. The regulation should come by amending the City's ordinance related to pawn brokers and secondhand dealers.

Stricter regulations would give police additional capability to locate stolen goods that are bought by secondhand dealers. The ordinance amendment is directed at secondhand dealers that are also temporarily located in Long Beach. Some of the temporary businesses are operating out of kiosks, gas stations and grocery stores.

When many of these thieves approach the public, it becomes confrontational and the public does not have the time and/or the capability of reacting. When the victim does call the LBPD, it is such a fast-occurring crime, that the thief is long gone.

We are requesting the City take the appropriate action to ensure the residents of the 6th District and the entire City of Long Beach have a better and more peaceful quality of life and that they are not afraid to walk the streets of Long Beach. These issues create an environment of the City of Long Beach not being a safe place to live and shop.

We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to working with you in resolving this issue. We support your efforts in finding a resolution.

Sincerely,

SOUTH WRIGLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY GROUP

By:

Annie Greenfeld, Co-Chair
Sammy Portillo, Co-Chair