



**City of Long Beach**  
Working Together to Serve

**R-17**  
**Office of Gerrie Schipske**  
**Councilwoman, Fifth District**  
**Memorandum**

Date: September 6, 2011

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District  
Councilwoman Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RS*

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Request City Manager and Fire Chief To Report on How City of Long Beach Can Participate in County of Los Angeles Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) and Voluntary Registry

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### DISCUSSION

The County of Los Angeles operates a Special Needs Assessment Plan Voluntary Registry. The purpose of this registry is to facilitate the planning and implementation of disaster response by first-responder agencies to persons with special needs living in the County of Los Angeles. The registry is a project of the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management in cooperation with other cities and agencies in the Los Angeles County disaster response operational area.

The Special Needs Disaster Registry is a voluntary program for those persons in Los Angeles County who may need specific disability-related assistance and/or accommodations in the event of a major disaster. Special accommodations and assistance needs may include communicating through alternative means, requiring specialized paratransit services, life sustaining medications or equipment, etc.

Persons living in Los Angeles County and having any conditions that might impede with their abilities to evacuate a building, travel to or stay safely in an emergency evacuation center, or to securely shelter in place without assistance, can enroll in the Registry. Such conditions include:

- Physical disabilities
- Cardiac and/or respiratory circumstances
- Developmental disabilities
- Emotional or psychiatric disabilities
- Deafness or hearing loss
- Blindness or severe vision loss
- Speech impairments
- Short-term disabilities
- Reliance on technologies that use electricity
- Using medications
- Participation in a home delivery program
- Need specialized paratransit vehicles
- Experience seizures
- Immune system deficiencies
- Communicable diseases
- Severe chemical or other allergies

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Should a disaster strike in Long Beach, this registry can be used to enhance the efficiency of those agencies called upon to respond. Enrollees are not prioritized for first consideration or evacuation. However the responding agencies will use this information to maximize their capacity to serve those with special needs, both in the planning and preparation process, as well as in their actual post-disaster response.

Enrollment in the Special Needs Registry is completely voluntary. The information provider could help to save lives. Information submitted on this registry form is for the purpose of planning and coordinating emergency responses. The information will not be shared with unauthorized personnel or organizations. Release of this information to authorized agencies and personnel (which may include first responders such as local fire departments, police and/or sheriff's departments; shelter personnel; emergency operations managers, etc.) will occur only for the purpose of effecting the delivery of aid to enrollees.

Emergency responders will attempt to use the registry to enhance their response capacities and to better understand the enrollees' specific accommodation needs, taking into consideration the necessity to allocate their resources across the impacted areas.

#### STATUS

Currently, the Long Beach Fire Department cannot access the information contained in the SNAP Registry. A letter of participation must be executed between the County and the City of Long Beach to allow Fire and Police personnel to have access to the registry. Additionally, Long Beach residents need to be made aware that this program exists and encouraged to enroll.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Motion to request the City Manager direct the Fire Chief to report to the City Council on the status of the letter of participation and how the City of Long Beach and its residents can participate in the SNAP Voluntary Registry.