



R-19

Date: February 2, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor Foster and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Gary DeLong, 3rd District *GD*
Councilmember Robert Garcia, 1st District *RG*
Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, 2nd District *SL*
Vice Mayor Val Lerch, 9th District *Val*

Subject: **Fire Department Staffing**

As the City Council evaluates the potential community benefits associated with the hiring of additional police officers, it is appropriate to review Fire Department staffing requirements to ensure that all Public Safety needs are addressed.

Currently the Long Beach Fire Department has 41 vacancies, which includes 21 vacant front-line firefighter positions. While most of the positions are filled by deploying existing Fire staff on an overtime basis, this is not an optimum nor desired long-term strategy.

Suggested Council Action

Request the City Manager to report back to the City Council with a recommendation for both Police and Fire staffing levels, and associated funding for both Academy and ongoing personnel costs.