



**Date:** August 1, 2006  
**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Bonnie Lowenthal, Vice Mayor *BL*  
Suja Lowenthal, Second District Councilmember *SL*  
**Subject:** Definition of Loft

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As the City of Long Beach prepares to designate an area within the Downtown as a "Loft District," with a clear, defined set of regulations and possible incentives to encourage adaptive reuse within that Loft District, it has become necessary for the City to provide a definition of the term "loft."

Traditionally, the term "loft" has been used in reference to a unit with ceilings over 10 feet high, incorporating open layouts and natural light, or a second mezzanine level overlooking the floor below.

With the influx of new housing opportunities in the downtown area, the City of Long Beach has a responsibility to protect potential homebuyers from misleading usage of housing terms. By providing a clear definition of the architectural characteristics that constitute a "loft" within the City of Long Beach, the possibility of confusion to both potential homebuyers and developers will be eliminated.

**Recommendation:**

I respectfully request that this matter be referred to the Planning Commission for a recommendation on a standardized definition for the newly formed loft district in downtown Long Beach.