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Date: November 19, 2002
To: The Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember First District *BL*
Subject: Agenda Item: Relocation Ordinance

The City Council adopted the City's current tenant relocation ordinance (Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.60) more than ten (10) years ago in 1991. The purpose of the ordinance is to mitigate problems caused by the displacement of very low and low income households that have been or will be displaced due to condominium conversions, or the demolition or remodeling of a structure due to code enforcement activities undertaken by the City. The current ordinance also serves to implement various goals of the housing element of the Long Beach General Plan to provide housing opportunities that are affordable to low income households throughout the City.

It has come to my attention that challenges have arisen in both the interpretation and administration of the City's ordinance. These challenges have posed problems for both City staff and those members of the public and their representatives who seek enforcement of the ordinance. Since this ordinance was first implemented there have been several significant changes in state law regarding the issue of tenant relocation. In addition, surrounding cities have implemented various tenant relocation ordinances containing somewhat different features from Long Beach's ordinance over the past ten years.

I request that this matter be referred to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee for the purpose of undertaking a study to determine whether or not it is appropriate to amend or modify Chapter 21.60 of the Long Beach Municipal Code.