



R-15

Date: September 13, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick O'Donnell, 4th District Councilmember
Bonnie Lowenthal, 1st District Councilmember
Laura Richardson, 6th District Councilmember

Subject: Safe Passage

Background

In an effort to ensure student safety to and from school, the Long Beach Police Department assigned two patrol cars to each of our five high schools. This program, Safe Passage, is slated to end in mid-October.

Safe Passage has been an effective program in addressing many of the public safety needs surrounding our campuses. Our schools are the anchors of our community, and we believe it is the City's job to participate in ensuring that these institutions are safe. We have a role in supporting and assisting our hard working teachers and administrators in ensuring our schools are successful institutions.

We are proud of our Long Beach high schools and our students. However, we recognize the need for a public safety presence as thousands of students travel to and from school, after school programs, home and work.

Repeatedly, we have heard that public safety is the number one priority for our city. Keeping our most vulnerable residents safe – our children – should be our focus.

Recommended Action

Direct the City Manager to explore the continuation of the Safe Passage program at Long Beach high schools and to report back to Council by October 4.

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