



**Date:** November 15, 2005

**To:** Honorable Mayor O'Neill and Members of the City Council

**From:** Frank Colonna, Councilmember, Third District *FC*  
Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember, First District *BL*  
Rae Gabelich, Councilmember, Eighth District *RG*

**Subject:** **Mounted Police in Downtown Long Beach**

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### **Background**

As we move to create a vibrant and safe Downtown Entertainment and Dining District, it is important that our top priority remains more uniformed police officers in our Downtown and throughout our city.

Our strategy of transforming Pine Avenue into an entertainment and tourist destination has already begun by creating the new Downtown District, installing security cameras, and supporting our Redevelopment Agency projects.

As part of our long-term vision for Downtown, and within the scope of our long-term citywide policing strategy, we should also explore the possibility of introducing Mounted Police into our Downtown patrol.

The presence of Mounted Police could have an incredibly positive impact in our Downtown. They are a powerful presence and extremely visible to the public. They would also add a unique flavor and personality to our growing Downtown.

Mounted Units are extremely successful in other large American cities. They are used for traffic control, crowd control, community relations, and the prevention of street crime. Seldom is public attention so magnetically drawn to police as it is to an officer on horseback.

Other cities with Mounted Police include Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, Fresno and Santa Monica.

### **Suggested Action**

As we work alongside the City Manager and the Chief of Police on a long-term policing strategy, we would respectfully request a report to the City Council about the possibility of introducing Mounted Police into our Downtown.