



Date: October 4, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Councilmember Bonnie Lowenthal, First District *BoL*
Subject: Drug Free Park Zones

Background:

At a recent Drake Park community-meeting residents expressed the desire to make Drake Park a Drug Free Zone to address the increase in unwanted activity at the park. A drug-free zone is any specific location in the community, especially an area where children congregate, that the people perceive as being a place where drug activity exists.

It is important for the City to take every action necessary to notify the public that the sale and utilization of drugs will not be tolerated at City parks. Furthermore, this direct communication to the public will more than likely send a positive prevention message to the youth of Long Beach.

Communities experience a variety of problems associated with drug abuse including; increased violence, deteriorating neighborhoods, graffiti, loss of public facilities, and gang activity. All of these instances have a direct impact on the quality of life within our City. In addition, the sale of drugs in public parks and beaches consumes substantial law enforcement resources that could otherwise be directed toward other community needs.

Recommendation:

I, therefore request, with the support of my colleagues, that the City Manager work with the City Attorney to determine what steps are necessary to place signs at city parks that would clearly state that all parks are drug free zones and that sales and use of drugs in City parks will not be tolerated, and to report back to the Council within 30 days.