



Legislation Text

File #: 10-0161, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to request City Attorney, in collaboration with the City Manager, to draft a policy to adopt a Tax Amnesty Program and report back to City Council in 30 days. (Citywide)

As our City deals with the current difficult financial times, it is essential that all possible revenue be collected so that we can fund crucial services. From Los Angeles to New York thousands of cities have set off on a new path to receive financial income through a tax amnesty program. In a matter of months, the programs have generated millions of dollars.

The creation of an amnesty program allows businesses and individuals that are not in compliance an opportunity to come forward, penalty free, and operate in a matter that is within the law. The benefit to the City is that unrealized revenue opportunities will be gained and future enforcement cost for non-compliance reduced.

The Amnesty Program is not a new tax. It is the realization of lost revenue. It is revenue that is legitimately owed to the City of Long Beach.

The Tax Amnesty Program gives taxpayers the opportunity to avoid the imposition of penalties as a result of non-reporting, underreporting, underpaying or not paying the following taxes:

- Business license taxes
- Commercial tenants occupancy taxes

Businesses that have not registered with the City's Business License Division are also eligible to apply.

To participate in the program, taxpayers must file an application during a specified time frame, usually a three-month period, and comply with conditions such as the following:

1. File completed tax statements or returns for all periods for which the taxpayer has not previously filed a tax statement or return and/or file completed amended tax statements or returns for all periods for which the taxpayer underreported the taxes due; and
2. Pay in full all principal, interest, and any applicable fees (excluding penalty fees) due.

Approve recommendation.

[Enter Body Here]

DEE ANDREWS
COUNCILMEMBER, SIXTH DISTRICT

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER