City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

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Attachment A

Date: October 21, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilwoman Laura Richardson

Subject: **Recommendation Regarding Redevelopment Merger Independent Study – Item #29**

Before we begin discussion of the proposed Project Area Expansion, Project Area Merger and Independent Study of Redevelopment, I would like to put forward a recommendation.

At this time I would like to make the following motion:

The City Council recommends that the Redevelopment Agency:

1. Defer any action on a study of project area merger or expansion until after the completion of an Independent Study.
2. Create a Steering Committee composed of several PAC members, Agency Board members and Staff to oversee the preparation of an Independent Study of Redevelopment to be completed within 6 months.

Tonight, I propose that we ask the Redevelopment Agency to proceed with the preparation of an Independent Study of Redevelopment in the City of Long Beach.

The Independent Study should include but not be limited to:

1. Document the best practices of redevelopment agencies in other communities.
2. Evaluate past Redevelopment Agency projects and programs in Long Beach.
3. Evaluate the best practices for community participation in the redevelopment process.
4. Answer questions regarding the merger proposal and project area expansion.
   - Is a merger desirable?
   - What would be the impact of a merger on Long Beach?
   - If the project areas were merged, what would be a fair and equitable method of distributing Redevelopment Agency resources?
   - Are there other neighborhoods that would benefit from redevelopment?
5. Also address other questions that will be brought forward once we begin this undertaking.

The creation of an Independent Study should be done in a way that builds trust. Therefore, I propose the following:

1. Establish a Steering Committee for the Independent Study composed of the three Project Area Committee chairs, three Redevelopment Agency Board members (chair, vice chair plus one other board member), one from the Planning Commission, one from the Economic Development Commission, one from the Housing Development Company Board and three staff.

2. Over the next 30 days the Steering Committee should solicit questions to be answered by the Independent Study from the public, PAC members, City Council, Agency Board members and staff.

3. Over the next 60 days, the Steering Committee would:
   - Prepare Guiding Principles for the preparation of the Independent Study.
   - Use the questions generated through consultation with the public to create a scope of work and a request for proposals that would be used to solicit the very best consultants.
   - Select a consultant or team of consultants.
   - Hire the consultants to prepare an Independent Study.

4. Over the next 6 months the Steering Committee would:
   - Work with the selected consultant in an open public manner to complete an Independent Study.
   - Reach out to all of the citizens of Long Beach to ensure that the study answers their questions.
   - Complete a document with findings and recommendations that will guide the City in the years to come.

Thank you everyone for your support and patience.