

A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER JACK SCHNIRMAN

Making Long Beach

STRONGER, SMARTER, SAFER



Dear Neighbor,

As the third anniversary of Superstorm Sandy approaches, we cannot help but reflect on how much has happened in the City of Long Beach over the past three years. From the initial days after the storm when we were working to restore our basic utilities, to removing over 300,000 cubic yards of debris and over 150,000 cubic yards of sand from our streets – we've been through it all together, we've come a long way, and yet we have more to do.

Three years later, our City Council's top priority remains continuing to execute the plan to rebuild a stronger, smarter, safer Long Beach. City Council members Torres, Adelson, Eramo, Goggin, & Mandel share the same vision for our City's future – one where Long Beach is truly a model of resiliency and sustainability.

We are at a unique moment in our City's history – critically important, long-overdue, large-scale infrastructure projects are finally moving forward. Our City Council is fiercely advocating for essential projects to move forward as fast as possible. For far too many decades, our City was unprotected and even routine rainstorms resulted in streets being closed by flooding. Our City Council gave us clear direction – we can no longer tolerate leaving our barrier island and our homes unprotected.

On the ocean side of our city, we will soon see the Army Corps of Engineers dune project get underway after 30 years in the making. Though it had failed to move forward before, the current City Council stood up so that Long Beach would have an engineered beach and proper dune structure, for the first time in the City's history.

On the bay side of the City, we are receiving \$40M in grant funds from the state and federal governments for universal bayside protection, and citywide stormwater improvements, featuring uniform bulkheading.

Since Superstorm Sandy, the City's critical infrastructure has been upgraded with resilience:

- ✓ \$4M has been invested in rebuilding and improving our water system.
- ✓ \$5.5M has been invested in upgrading and repairing our sewer system.
- ✓ \$1.4M has been invested in upgrading our storm drainage infrastructure, including tideflex valves which can minimize flooding by allowing water to flow from the streets to the bay, but not in the reverse direction.

In the rebuilding process, the City Council also fought to help residents cut through red tape by creating the Residential Rebuilding Assistance Program. Long Beach was the first municipality post Sandy to launch a residential advocacy program, helping 1,041 residents thus far.

Along the way, we have merged our physical recovery with our fiscal recovery, managing our way back into the black by eliminating deficits and rebuilding our rainy day fund. Using our incredible local workforce to get the job done right helped us immensely as we were reimbursed for thousands of hours worked by our team of City employees.

Three years after the storm, we are stronger – as a community, because we're more united in fighting for what we need and deserve. We're smarter – because we've turned our harsh lessons learned into practical, forward-looking plans and resiliency strategies. And we're safer – because we have made tremendous progress. Yet together, we have more to do. We will continue fighting to obtain the necessary resources we all need and deserve to rebuild the right way.

All around the City, we can all see steady improvement, one day at a time. Working together, we will continue the progress and keep Long Beach moving forward.

Very Truly Yours,

