



City of Long Beach Community Update

Spring 2012

“The City by the Sea”

www.longbeachny.org

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The City of Long Beach
1 West Chester Street
Long Beach, NY 11561
(516) 431-1000
www.longbeachny.org

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CITY OF LONG BEACH DECLARES FISCAL CRISIS



Fran Adelson
City Council President

The new City of Long Beach administration has been handed an inherited fiscal crisis. As reported on by *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Businessweek*, and many other publications, our finances have been completely mismanaged by the prior administration.

A thorough analysis of the Long Beach financial forecast has been completed, and the City faces

a projected budget deficit of \$10.25 million for fiscal year 2011-2012.

The total size of the estimated budget deficit represents more than 12.4% of all budgeted expenditures. This is a devastating deficit which will require a full review of the City's priorities and operations to return the City to a balanced budget.

Going forward, the next step in this process will be to present a roadmap creating a corrective action plan that will be worked on jointly with our labor partners and residents.

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COUNCIL SWORN IN AS ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

Three City Council members were sworn in at an induction ceremony on Sunday, January 1 to a standing-room-only crowd. Hon. Fran Adelson was named Council President, Hon. Len Torres was named Council Vice President and Hon. Scott J. Mandel was sworn in as

Council Member. They join other Council Members Hon. Michael Fagen and Hon. John McLaughlin to comprise the five-person governing body. Special guests included City, State, and County officials, as well as religious leaders and other members of the community. 



City Council Member Michael Fagen, City Council Vice President Len Torres, City Council President Fran Adelson, City Council Members Scott J. Mandel, and John McLaughlin

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Michael Tangney, a 34-year veteran of the Long Beach Police Department, has been selected as the City's permanent police commissioner. A panel of law enforcement and community experts unanimously selected Tangney following a thoughtful and thorough search.

Since being named Acting Police Commissioner in January, Commissioner Tangney was handed the task of providing cost-effective, accountable, community-oriented policing to the City of Long Beach, and he did just that. Providing the City with an total anticipated savings of \$649,698, Commissioner Tangney was able to increase accountability through tracking performance measures and boost morale, all while creating cost savings and enhancing overall department efficiency. In addition to continuing that trend, his goals include seeking additional grants to offset service costs, improved community relations efforts, and expanding the role for auxiliary department at special events.



Police Commissioner Tangney and City Manager Schnirman

Illegal Housing Enforcement

The City recently securing a \$30,000 community development grant earmarked to aide the City in its efforts to put an end to illegal housing. "It's a pervasive violation in our community," states City Council member Scott Mandel. "It overburdens our infrastructure, creates parking problems, and increases taxes in our school district. So our

police department and building department are now working together to crack down on illegal housing. Police Commissioner Michael Tangney and Building Commissioner Scott Kemins have devised a team of officers and building inspectors who will be dispatched to all areas of Long Beach to enforce the City's code. The best part about this program is that it is fully funded by the federal government and of absolutely no cost to taxpayers."

"If you are currently renting illegally, now is the time to correct the violation," comments

Commissioner Tangney. "If you are aware of anyone else renting illegally, now is the time to let us know. Additionally, if you were contemplating doing this yourself, now is certainly not the time to do so."

The City urges residents who are aware of illegal apartments in Long Beach to contact the City's Housing Task Force at 516-431-1000 ext. 239 or via email at illegalrentals@longbeachny.org. All complaints are kept strictly confidential and never disclosed to the owner of the premises. 

DID YOU KNOW?

Long Beach has numerous public parking lots for residents throughout the City. A permit is needed and can be purchased in the City Clerk's office for a nominal fee. Visit longbeachny.org/cityclerk to find out more how or visit the City Clerk's office on the 3rd floor in City Hall.

In the spirit of transparency, since January 1, the current administration has been streaming City Council meetings live on the longbeachny.org on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Immediately following each meeting, an archived video is available. If you are having difficulty viewing any of the council meeting videos, please visit helpcenter.ustream.tv.

CITY'S ANNUAL POLAR BEAR SWIM AGAIN A HIT



Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg and City Manager Jack Schnirman after "taking the plunge"

The Long Beach Polar Bear Club led the charge into the Atlantic Ocean on Sunday, February 5 when the City of Long Beach played host to the 13th Annual Superbowl Splash. What began with two friends, Kevin McCarthy and Pete Meyers, has become a tradition for thousands of Long Beach residents and visitors. The festivities began with enormous crowds of people filling the beach at Edwards, Riverside, and Long Beach Boulevards. There was a record turnout, and all proceeds from the event went to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Please visit longbeachpolarbears.org or www.superbowlsplash.kintera.org for more information. 

CITY OF LONG BEACH DECLARES FISCAL CRISIS *(Continued)*

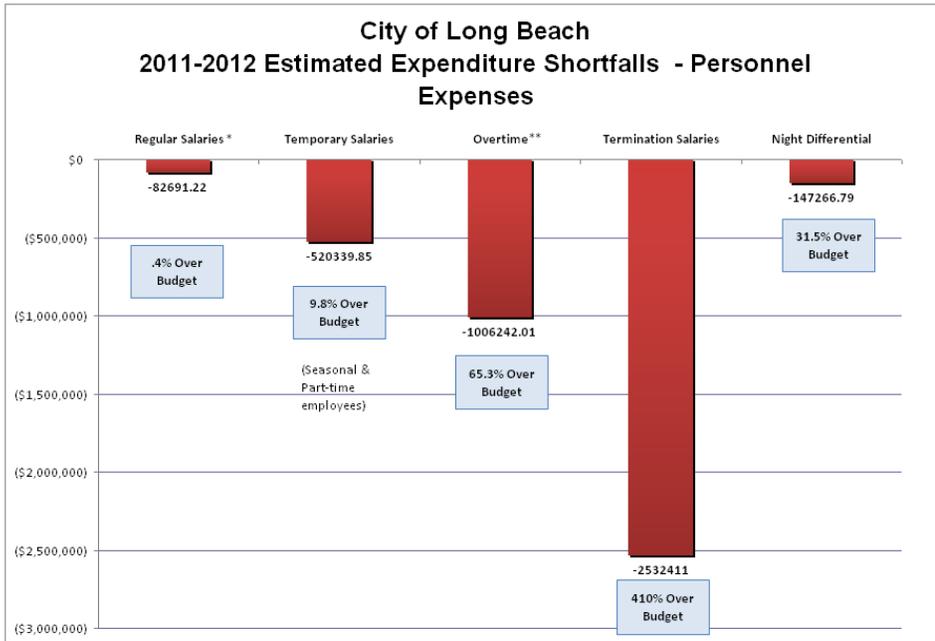
The Costs of Mismanagement The Prior Administration's Personnel Expense Deficits & Unsustainable Trajectory

Below is a list of some of the financial findings we uncovered in our first month:

Insufficient Spending Controls

"We never tracked denied purchase requisitions, because NOTHING WAS EVER DENIED." - Previous Administration

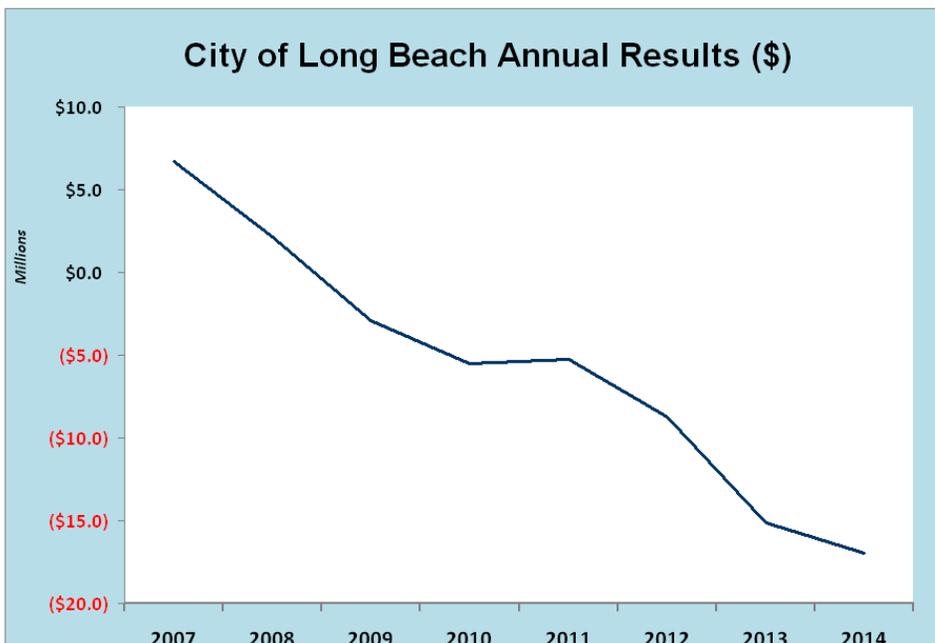
- Outdated and unbudgeted petty cash procedures and controls
- Blanket purchase orders for over \$200,000, requested up to \$400,000
- Personnel movements executed without regard to budget (costing \$393,939.62)
- City pays for Newsday delivery to an employee's home
- Purchases requested without confirmation of available funds, ignoring chain of command
- No tracking of city's fixed assets inventory under \$500
- City has four different cell carriers providing the same type of service



While regular salaries are estimated to be slightly over budget, inherited overtime costs are 65% over budget*, and termination salaries are a staggering 400% over budget.

Spotlight on Overtime

- No consistent policy to manage overtime
- 8 departments have severely exceeded their annual overtime budget by a total of \$544,016, or 40.8%
- An 80% increase in overtime from 2010 to 2011
- Overtime increased almost \$900,000, or 66% since 2006
- Zero accountability for exceeding overtime budgets



If the current trend continued, the City's annual deficit would approach \$20 million by the year 2015.

Needless to say, the new administration comes into a challenging situation, and we are being faced with extremely difficult decisions. However, we are confident that our new management team will enable us to get the City's finances on the road to recovery and restore fiscal responsibility in Long Beach. 🌟

City Manager

Jack Schnirman

City Council

Fran Adelson, *President*

Len Torres, *Vice President*

Michael Fagen

Scott J. Mandel

John McLaughlin



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RESIDENTS SPEAK AND THE LONG BEACH CITY COUNCIL LISTENS

City Council President Fran Adelson has pledged to offer Long Beach residents a far more open and transparent government. To this end, she, along with City Council Vice President Len Torres and the rest of the City Council, will be hosting meetings throughout the community under the banner of Long Beach Listens.

Occurring at a different location every month, Long Beach Listens provides residents with an unprecedented opportunity to meet and communicate with City officials like never before. “We fully recognize how busy everyone’s lives are and how valuable everyone’s time is,” says Council President Fran Adelson. “With that said, we still believe that it is critical to the success of government for residents to be as actively involved as possible. This administration is not operating in a



City Council Vice President Len Torres, City Council President Fran Adelson, City Manager Jack Schnirman & City Council Member Scott Mandel field questions at the inaugural Long Beach Listens meeting in the West End Community Center on February 20.

vacuum, and we have nothing to hide. It is our hope that the implementation of new community outreach programs and committees, along with public hearings at council meetings, will encourage members of our community to be a far greater part of the process than in recent years.”

For details concerning future Long Beach Listens meetings, including locations and times, check the City’s website and social media pages in the coming weeks. 

***NEXT MEETING: May 30 at 7:30pm
Young Israel (120 Long Beach Blvd.)***

SUMMER NEWS

Beach Passes On Sale

The summer is fast approaching, and beach passes are now on sale at the Long Beach Recreation Center. Please call 431-1021 for more information.

Summer Employment

Summer job applications are currently available in the Civil Service office on the 5th floor of City Hall

- Beach Park Gate Attendants must be at least 14 years of age.
- Recreation Summer Camp staff must be at least 16 years of age.
- Youth & Family Services Camp usually hires qualified college students.

