

A Message from Acting City Manager John Mirando...

First, I would like to thank all five of the Council members for having the confidence in me to lead the City Government through a challenging period.

Thank you to Commissioner Tangney and Corporation Council Rob Agostisi for their leadership as ACMs. While both had different management styles, I was able to gain valuable insight into the City and the short-term and long-term issues facing the City. From the time the Council asked if I would fill this role, Rob has been bringing me up to speed on various ongoing legal issues as well as other initiatives being handled by the City Manager's Office. Rob has set in motion several worthwhile initiatives that will benefit the City and its residents in the near future.

As Commissioner of Public Works, I have always made myself available to meet with residents and business owners. I will always listen to their concerns, find solutions, explain what is possible to do, and give explanations as to why something cannot be accomplished. As ACM, I will continue to be available to listen -- not just to those who express their concerns at Council meetings but also to the many residents who do not attend Council meetings and still have a desire to express their concerns to me directly.

When our last permanent CM left office I had submitted a letter of interest in filling the permanent position of CM. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances in my personal life, I had to withdraw from consideration. While those circumstances have not changed, my desire to see the City of Long Beach prosper and thrive remain strong, and I am committed to the task at hand.

I feel that it is important to note that while I presently do not live in Long Beach, I have a daughter who has been a teacher here at Lindell for over 10 years, a son and daughter in law who have made Long Beach their home, and as a person growing up in a surrounding community, I have watched Long Beach go through some tough times, a renaissance, ongoing recovery from Sandy, and first-hand facing financial issues.

While we certainly have a challenging road ahead, working together with the Council, residents, businesses, and our dedicated City workforce, I believe we can overcome the issues we face and secure a bright future for our City.

One of the requests I made when asked to fill this role is that when the new Council is sworn in and starts its search for a new CM that I be given consideration for the permanent position. Recently, I signed a contract with a real estate agent to sell my residence in Oceanside with the intent of moving to Long Beach. I love this City. We truly have a unique community spirit in Long Beach, and I am extremely proud and honored to accept this appointment.