



PRESS CLIPS

August 7, 2010-August 13, 2010

**Presented to the
Downtown Long Beach Associates
Board of Directors
August 13, 2010**

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New Long Beach Development Services director named

Amy Bodek will replace demoted former director Craig Beck

By Paul Eakins, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/06/2010 05:07:27 PM PDT

Updated: 08/07/2010 08:46:00 AM PDT

LONG BEACH - City Manager Pat West announced Friday that he has selected Amy Bodek to head the Department of Development Services.

Bodek is the acting executive director of one of the department's most prominent bureaus, the Redevelopment Agency, which works to eliminate blight and attract businesses to Long Beach's neediest areas.

"She is without a doubt the most-qualified person to lead this very important department, and her abilities, experience and dedication will help ensure that the city of Long Beach continues to maintain its vitality and unique appeal," West said in a statement.

Bodek will replace Craig Beck, whom West demoted and moved to the Department of Gas and Oil in December after revelations that Beck had taken a Napa Valley vacation with a lobbyist and received a free hotel room.

Since Beck's removal, Development Services has been run by Deputy City Manager Reggie Harrison. Bodek will start her new job the first week of September.

Development Services oversees the physical development and revitalization of the city through the planning process, the enforcement of building and environmental codes, and through the RDA.

Bodek has been with the city since 1992 and has a bachelor's degree in environmental design from Cornell University, a master's of urban planning from New York University and a certificate in landscape architecture from UCLA.

"I am honored to be appointed director of Development Services, just as I am passionate about the city of Long Beach," Bodek said in a statement.

"I am committed to doing what it takes to help build a dynamic, safe and sustainable city that honors its past, embraces its future and preserves the character of its many unique neighborhoods."

Reached by telephone, Bodek said that she will finish implementing the changes that West began when he merged the RDA and the Department of Planning and Building in 2007 to create Development Services.

"I definitely see this as an opportunity for some significant changes and really streamlining a lot of activities even more," Bodek said.

She said an interim RDA manager will be appointed until her permanent replacement is found.

paul.eakins@presstelegram.com, 562-499-1278



LONG BEACH. GETTIN' DOWN

Buffalo Duran dances on Pine Avenue Saturday at the Long Beach Funk Fest. The festival, which drew 15,000 last year, is part of Summer And Music, a free 13-concert series.

Jeff Gritchen Staff Photographer

An Excerpt from: Tuesday's Letters to the Editor

Posted: 08/09/2010 07:23:16 PM PDT

Updated: 08/09/2010 07:47:00 PM PDT

Funk Fest on Promenade

I say thanks for the Downtown Long Beach Business Associates and Redevelopment Agency for sponsoring a great Funk Fest musical event on Saturday. That block of Pine Avenue and the Promenade were constantly alive from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. It was so good to see the Promenade activate with such a large turnout.

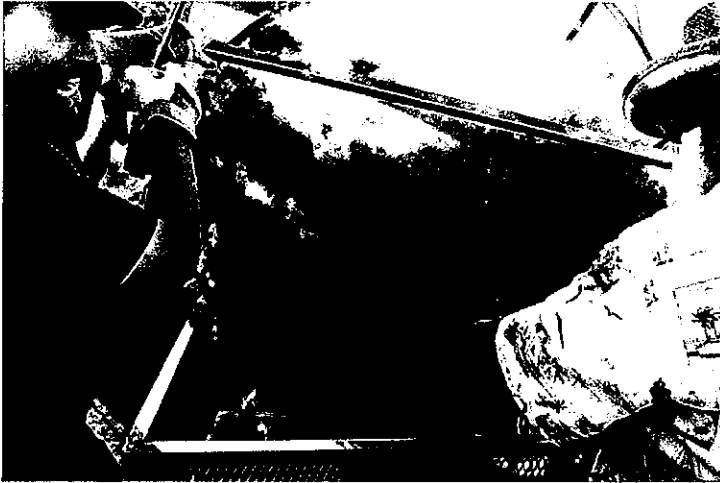
I think it would have still been just as viable to have a beer garden on the Promenade without jeopardizing beer sales on Pine Avenue. Some people like to stay outdoors and others don't mind going back to Pine Avenue bars and restaurants for food and drink.

Don Darnauer

Long Beach

PHOTOS: Crawfish Festival Brings Bayou To The Beach

by [Daniel DeBoom](#) | [Steal My Soul](#) | 08.10.10 |

**Dixie By The Sea**

In the olden days Long Beach was known as Iowa By The Sea due to the immigrants that traveled in droves from that midwestern state to make a new home for themselves in our fair city.

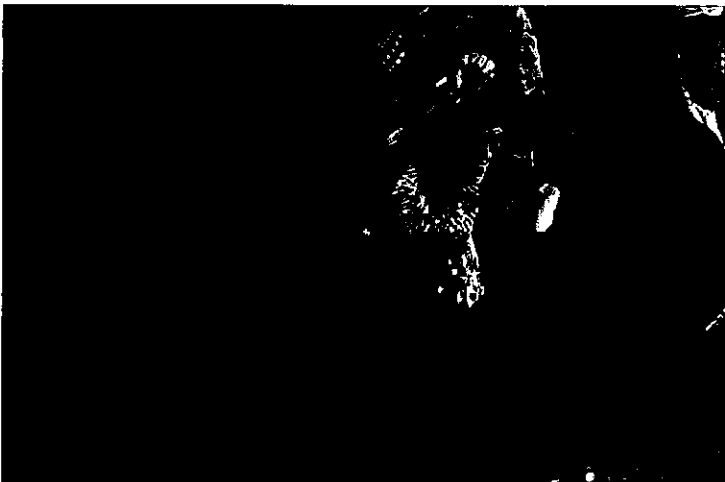
More recently, a case could be made for New Orleans to bestow adoptive sister city status upon us with the plethora of Cajun-style festivals we host each year.

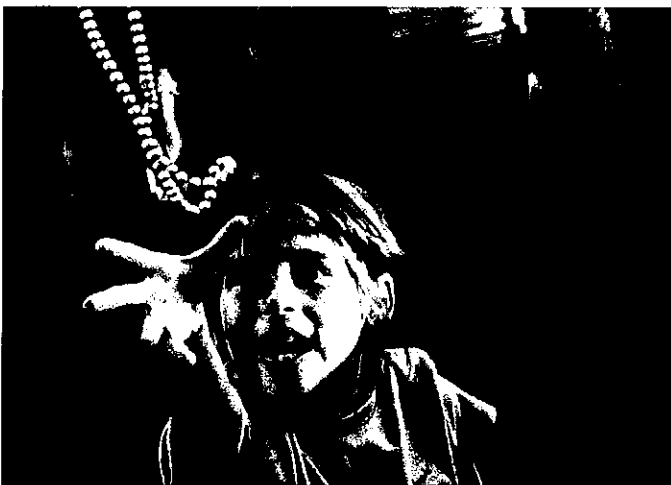
Long Beach Lobster Festival, Long Beach Cajun Festival, Long Beach Bayou and Blues Festival, Long Beach Mardi Gras and, this past weekend, the Long Beach Crawfish Festival.

Each of these events offer a taste of New Orleans from the food (Po' Boys, Beignets, Jambalaya) to the music (Blues, Jazz, Creole, Zydeco), the pomp and pageantry of the parades and the slingin' beads caught and collected under the chins of the smiling, happy faces that turn out, like Pavlov's dog, at the stroke of a frottoir.

As Nouveau Orleans we offer a traveling circuit bringing us the best of the Big Easy without the oppressive heat, hurricanes, contaminated wat... err... scratch that last one, I guess. But, there are no bitey alligators living in our swamp.









Long Beach City Council gives OK to larger aquarium

Area is rezoned to allow for \$50 million expansion.

By Paul Eakins, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/10/2010 09:37:40 PM PDT

Updated: 08/11/2010 06:10:23 PM PDT

LONG BEACH - The City Council signed off Tuesday on an expansion of the Aquarium of the Pacific, heaping nothing but praise on the 12-year-old attraction.

The council voted 8-0 to rezone the coastal area where the aquarium is located and allow the \$50million, 23,330-square-foot expansion. Councilman Patrick O'Donnell was absent.

The expansion has created controversy because city officials asked the Port of Long Beach for a second year to lend \$5.9 million to help pay off this year's bond payment for the aquarium's construction in 1998.

The Redevelopment Agency, which uses property tax revenue to attract businesses and eliminate blight in needy areas, will repay the \$5.9 million to the port from future revenues.

Although some redevelopment officials have criticized the timing of the expansion, no one showed up to contest the council's approval Tuesday. City officials didn't mention the bond payment, instead praising the aquarium.

"The Aquarium of the Pacific is a huge asset to the city of Long Beach," Deputy City Manager Reggie Harrison said.

He noted that it was the fourth most attended aquarium in the country in 2009 with 1.5million visits. Aquarium officials hope the expansion will increase that number to 2 million.

Councilwoman Suja Lowenthal compared the aquarium to a museum or library as an educational resource.

Only Councilwoman Rae Gabelich alluded to the aquarium's past financial problems, which was what led the city to take on its debt in 2001.

The aquarium has "to be able to generate the money to pay for this to the best of your ability," Gabelich said.

The expansion, which will be funded with donations and grants, not city money, will create a new, changing exhibit area with a variety of marine animals, and will have a 3-D theater for educational programs.

The aquarium will also get a new front entrance, a larger gift shop, more lobby space and a new facade that will have a digital screen on which images of sea life or the aquarium logo may be displayed.

The Planning Commission has signed off on the aquarium's design, but the project's last hurdle now is to get approval from the California Coastal Commission.

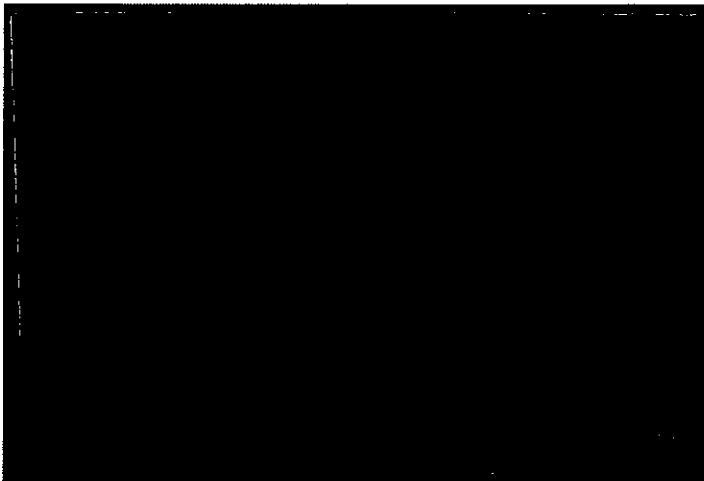
paul.eakins@presstelegram.com, 562-499-1278

Kidnapping, sexual assault charges debated in Long Beach crime spree trial

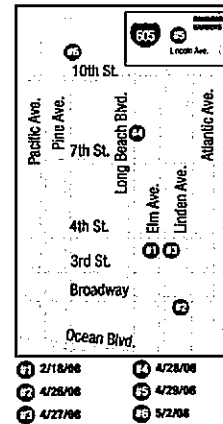
By Tracy Manzer, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/10/2010 07:03:02 PM PDT

Updated: 08/10/2010 07:27:14 PM PDT



Alleged Proctor attacks



This is one of the photos provided as evidence where victims were allegedly attacked by Charles Juan Proctor with a box cutter. There are six victims testifying against Proctor. (Photo provided by the prosecution)

LONG BEACH - There is no question Charles Juan Proctor robbed half a dozen local women in 2008, slashing several of them with a razor or box cutter during a crime spree that terrified women in downtown Long Beach and the East Village.

Where the defense and prosecution differ is the charge that Proctor kidnapped his victims when he forced the women away from public view from the front of their various businesses and into the dark recesses of rear closets or back counters.

Proctor, 55, was arrested in Nevada in February 2009, about nine months after the final attack that targeted women in Long Beach and Hawaiian Gardens.

The methods used in the crimes were nearly identical, said Deputy District Attorney Carol Rose.

Proctor went into the victims' shops - where the women were working alone - under the guise of being a customer before holding a blade to their throats and demanding money.

The cash typically amounted to very little. About \$50 was taken from the first victim, the owner of a downtown barber shop who closed her salon after her assault. About \$80 was taken from another business owner, who has since given up her East Village boutique.

While the loss was relatively small, the violence was horrendous, the prosecutor said.

"He gets angry when they cry ... he yells 'Shut up! Shut up b----!' over and over," Rose said. "This is a man who terrorizes six women."

Public Defender Thomas Tyler said his client does not dispute the robberies and assaults but Proctor does deny the kidnapping allegations and accusations he tried to sexually assault one victim.

"This case is not about whether robbery occurred," Tyler said. "This case is about whether it was over-filed."

The case includes two counts of attempted murder due to injuries suffered by two victims as well as two counts of mayhem.

One of those victims, who still lives in the back of her East Village artist's loft, said Proctor cut her throat twice, twisting the blade to dig it deeper into her flesh, then slashed her face and stabbed her in the back of her head.

Another victim tearfully described pools of her blood left splattered throughout her bridal shop near Eighth Street and Long Beach Boulevard. She said Proctor slit her throat twice and slashed her cheek and jaw.

Of the six victims in the case, four testified on the first day of trial Tuesday along with detectives and DNA and fingerprint experts.

Proctor's DNA was found at three crime scenes, including hair clippings at the first victim's barber shop - which she fished out of her trash and saved for police, witnesses and experts said.

The defendant's fingerprints were lifted from a catalog at the downtown bridal shop, with three prints found on the glossy magazine he flipped through while pretending to shop for dresses.

The remaining victims are scheduled to testify today and the case could go to the jury as early as this afternoon.

Testimony is scheduled to resume at 9:30 a.m.

tracy.manzer@presstelegram.com, 562-499-1261.

Gay and Lesbian Chamber holding Leadership Summit in Long Beach

By Phillip Zonkel, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/11/2010 08:12:16 PM PDT

Updated: 08/11/2010 08:12:39 PM PDT

The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is holding its Pacific Leadership Summit on Friday and Saturday at the Long Beach Hilton.

The two-day event is a gathering of LGBT chamber leaders from California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

The Pacific Leadership Summit is hosted by the Long Beach Community Business Network, also known as the Long Beach Gay Chamber of Commerce, and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

The summit is only open to LGBT chamber leaders, board members and new chamber startup committees to network, share and discuss the best practices needed to lead and keep chambers of commerce vibrant and growing.

Registration, \$150 for both days, is required and is available at the summit.

Two open-to-the-public events also are scheduled: A mixer at Hotel Maya, 700 Queensway Drive, 5 p.m. Friday; and a 45-minute Long Beach Harbor cruise 4:30 Saturday. The cruise is \$12 per person. Meet at Dock Two near the Aquarium of the Pacific.

For more information, contact Paul Duncan, LBCBN, 562-590-0808.

Long Beach police arrest two suspected bicycle thieves

By Kelly Puente, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/12/2010 05:18:25 PM PDT

Updated: 08/12/2010 06:11:50 PM PDT

LONG BEACH - In the wake of a major increase in bicycle thefts, police on Thursday announced the arrests of two suspected bicycle thieves who have both been charged with multiple felony counts.

The Long Beach Police Department credited the arrests to alert citizens, officers and detectives working together to impact crime. Police believe the two suspects, who were not connected, may be responsible for similar crimes and the investigation is ongoing.

The first arrest occurred July 31 after a homeowners association noticed an increase in stolen bicycles from a condominium parking structure in the area of Fifth Street and Pine Avenue, said LBPB spokeswoman Nancy Pratt.

The association distributed fliers describing the trend in thefts and showing a photo of a suspect caught on video surveillance. A few days later, a resident returning home noticed a suspicious-looking person entering the parking area and immediately called police.

Officers, aware of the reoccurring thefts, arrived quickly and arrested 35-year-old Mark Esley Shields on suspicion of residential burglary, petty theft with a prior and possession of burglary tools, Pratt said.

The second arrest occurred on Saturday after a patrol officer noticed a man committing several moving violations while riding a women's-style bike in the area of Pacific Avenue and 12th Street.

The officer made contact with the man and discovered he was on probation for theft. The officer investigated further and determined that the man had several stolen items in his possession, including the bike. Justin Wosick, 25, of Long Beach was arrested on suspicion of residential burglary, petty theft and possession of marijuana. The stolen property was returned to its owners, Pratt said.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has filed eight felony counts against Shields and two felony counts against Wosick, she said.

Last month, a Press-Telegram story revealed that the number of bike thefts in the city jumped a whopping 75 percent last year, with an estimated 600 bicycles reported stolen in 2009, up from 350 in 2008.

The numbers have been increasing steadily this year, with 230 bicycles reported stolen between January and May.

The LBPB said it will continue to actively pursue bicycle thieves and follow up on tips from the community. Owners are strongly encouraged to use a "U" style lock, which is harder to cut through, and register their bikes with the city.

For more information, visit www.bikestation.org/longbeach.

Kress Market brings organic to downtown Long Beach

By Karen Robes Meeks. Staff Writer
 Posted: 08/12/2010 07:46:26 PM PDT
 Updated: 08/12/2010 11:22:39 PM PDT



Long Beach resident Elida Becerra, left, speaks with First District Councilmember Robert Garcia, center, and Kress Market owner Hilda Ortiz, right, on her interest in becoming an organic consumer prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the Kress Market on Thursday. (Diandra Jay/Press-Telegram)

An organic market and deli, Kress Market is located at Pine Ave. and 5th St. in downtown Long Beach. (Diandra Jay/Press-Telegram)

LONG BEACH - When Rebecca Dragula needed organic groceries, she often drove several miles away from her Kress Lofts home of eight years to shop at Belmont Shore, San Pedro or Olives on the Broadway Corridor.

So when Kress Market at 443 Pine Ave. opened, she and other residents were excited to have something they have always wanted - downtown's first organic market.

"It's a place for us to get really great organic foods at not a very high price point, that's comparable to other stores and just feel like we're getting really great product," Dragula said. "And owners Javier and Hilda have made it a point to make sure that we have a voice in what gets brought in here."

Downtown residents and city and business officials Thursday celebrated the grand opening of the 2,000-square-foot deli and market filled with organic products, beer and wine, signature sandwiches and a smoothie bar.

After the ceremony, the store was filled with folks perusing the shelves, which were stocked with bottles of pinot noir, Yogi tea, Ah!Laska organic chocolate syrup and boxes of organic "Hemp Plus Granola."

For those who live downtown, the market signifies a milestone in a long-awaited revitalization.

"What's very exciting is to see the people on the street that didn't have any people on it before," said Judy Baker of Community Access Media. "This was a very dark area of the town, and I know that through the years there have been a lot of efforts made to revitalize it. ... People have been hesitant to come downtown, and when you see everyone down here right now it's so encouraging."

For many years, downtown has been associated with the homeless and working poor. But the residential profile downtown has been evolving as urbanites with six-figure salaries settle into the hundreds of newly developed condos and lofts in the Walker Building, Kress Lofts, Temple Lofts, Courtyard Lofts, the Insurance Exchange Building, 133 Promenade, Pine@Sixth, AQUA and CityPlace Lofts.

An eclectic mix of homebuyers make up downtown's citizenry, ranging from young professionals to older residents who like living in historic buildings, said Downtown-based real estate firm DOMA Properties president Scott Hamilton. Downtown condo and loft prices can range from \$250,000 for a one-bedroom condo along Ocean Boulevard to \$800,000 to \$1 million for a spacious loft, he said.

City fathers and business officials hope that these new residents will raise the demographic profile of an area long ignored by retailers.

Still, with an economic downturn and a downtown residential population still developing, progress for new stores to serve new residents' needs has been slow.

And one of the biggest things residents have been clamoring for is an organic market within walking distance. Several years ago, some tried to bring a Trader Joe's to downtown without much success.

Javier Ortiz argues that there is a market for a high-end store, adding that there are 5,000 people living in downtown who could be potential customers.

"People are willing to spend money if you provide them not only good food but good service," he said. "We're a mom-and-pop shop and people like that."

Kress market owners Javier and Hilda Ortiz worked with downtown from the start, said 1st District City Councilman Robert Garcia.

"Typically when a business says we want your input, that usually, oftentimes, may not mean too much," said Garcia, who lives four blocks away from the market. "But in their case, quite frankly, the residents were involved in the design, in the selection of the food, the selection of the wine from the very beginning of this whole process. And I don't know how many businesses incorporate the residents so much as this couple did in opening their business."

Now, Kress Market isn't the only retailer setting up shop downtown. Fresh and Easy is also soon to land in a 10,000-square-foot CityPlace space that could open as early as November.

The city is working on sprucing up the 400 block of Pine with landscaping and bicycle racks, Garcia said.

"This is really a turning point at a pivotal moment for downtown," he said. "And we cannot thank Javier and Hilda enough for investing the resources, the time, the love, that spirit that has really made this place come alive."

He also encouraged downtown residents to support the market.

"The onus and responsibility (for) the success of this store is going to be on those of us who live here and I see a lot of my neighbors here," he said. "We are the ones that have to make this place a success."

karen.robles@presstelegram.com, 562-499-1303



Organic produce on display. (Diandra Jay/Press-Telegram)

Proposal May Alter Nightlife

Posted: Friday, August 13, 2010 10:46 am | *Updated: 10:49 am, Fri Aug 13, 2010.*

By Darcy Leigh Richardson

Editor | [0 comments](#)

Downtown Dining and Entertainment District business owners and area residents had a heated debate Thursday, Aug. 5, about a draft proposal to limit the hours of nightclub entertainment on Sunday evenings and to prohibit outdoor amplified music from rooftops and patios.

Broc Coward, chief of staff for Second District Councilwoman and Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal, listened to concerns and presented feedback to Lowenthal after the meeting.

Coward emphasized that the proposed district conditions were strictly a draft at this point, although residents' concerns regarding noise have been an issue for several months.

The Entertainment District was formed as a pilot program in 2005 to develop consistent hours and operating conditions for businesses requiring an entertainment permit.

In December 2008, the district, bounded by Ocean Boulevard, Third Street, Pacific Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard, and including The Pike at Rainbow Harbor and Shoreline Village, was permanently established. The businesses have been subject to a set of 17 conditions of operation and three tiered conditions for progressively more stringent regulation of entertainment and related activities.

However, Lowenthal has proposed modifications to the 17 conditions of operation for the district, including:

- All indoor entertainment may be offered until 11 p.m. on Sundays.
- Outdoor amplified music or rooftop entertainment is prohibited, except in conjunction with a special events permit.
- Require new Dining and Entertainment District permit applicants and those placed on Tier II or Tier III (venues are assigned tiers by the Long Beach Police Department regarding violation of conditions) to install security cameras on the outside of entrances and exits and make their videos available to police via online resources.
- The permit applicant shall not allow employees to discard trash or beer bottles into the outside dumpster between (a to-be-determined assigned time at night) and 7 a.m.
- Patio dining hours would need to be established as a compromise between business owners and residents.

Business owners at the Aug. 5 meeting said they were most concerned by limiting their hours of operation on Sunday nights, which are currently set as late as 2 a.m. for indoor entertainment and outdoor non-amplified entertainment.

The existing conditions of operation allow for outdoor amplified entertainment for rooftops that were permitted when the pilot program was created (businesses operating on or before Feb. 3, 2007).

John Morris, owner of Smooth's Sports Grille, 144 Pine Ave., said placing more stringent conditions on all business owners is not the best approach to address noise complaints from residents.

Smooth's rooftop bar and entertainment area has drawn complaints, according to the Second District office's records.

"I've been doing this for 22 years," Morris said.

"I sold Cohiba seven years ago because I wanted to get out of the nightclub business. Above Ocean Boulevard has changed in the last five years. I don't do business Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

"I brought a new promoter in, and trying to babysit DJs is hard. Business is tough enough as it is. The rooftop is 50% of my business on Friday and Saturday nights. It's a bigger picture because other areas of Long Beach are thriving."

Morris suggested that nearby residences, such as the condominium complex at 133 The Promenade North, were not built to sufficient design standards that would withstand noise from surrounding nightclubs.

George Bacol, owner of Cohiba, 110 E. Broadway, said at the meeting that limiting his hours of operation on Sunday night would "shut him down."

"Three hours on Sunday night can mean the difference between us being open and closing," Bacol said. "You need to be in the (nightclub) business to understand."

Janet Ballantyne, president of the homeowners association (HOA) at 133 The Promenade North, said she is disrupted on a regular basis by the music from Cohiba, which is located below her residence.

Other residents of the building have expressed concerns about venues such as Wokcano, Cohiba and Smooth's, Ballantyne added.

"The consensus is that we have a very low quality of life in that building and that's not what we signed up for," Ballantyne said. "We want to work with the businesses."

Lowenthal said she repeatedly has heard requests from downtown residents for a respite from amplified sound and related activities on Sunday, enabling them to get rest and prepare for the workweek ahead.

"I discussed these ideas once before with residents and business owners at a previous Dining and Entertainment District meeting, but both groups expressed a desire to work on the issues before the council took any action," Lowenthal said.

"I can appreciate these concerns and view the Dining and Entertainment Conditions as an evolving document, changing along with the district's influx of residents.

"More than one business owner has mentioned to me that they've been waiting a long time for residents to move into the downtown, so it's in their best interest to find sustainable and workable solutions."

For more information, visit www.longbeach.gov/district2.