A Brief Introduction to Long Beach and The Mayor's Initiative

A Few Statistics

- Population = 470,000 (2013)
  - 2nd Largest City in Greater LA Area
  - 7th Largest City in California
  - 36th Largest City in U.S.
- Long Beach is the most ethnically diverse large city in the U.S.
- Long Beach is a relatively poor city
  - 23% live in poverty (U.S. poverty rate =15%) Cal Rate = 23%
  - Among the 70 U.S. cities with populations of 250,000 or greater, Long Beach ranks 26th in poverty.

A Few Statistics

  - 33% of children under 5 live in poverty
  - 33% of children 5-17 live in poverty
- Estimated median annual household income in 2012 was $47,837.
- Estimated median house or condo value in 2012 was $402,400
- Homeless
  - Long Beach has the 4th highest rate of unsheltered homeless of all major cities in the U.S.
  - Long Beach has the 9th highest rate of chronically homeless of all major cities in the U.S.

Some Major City Assets

- Climate and Weather
- Coastal Environments
- Location
- The Diverse Population
- A Sense of Time and History
- The Port of Long Beach
- Cal State University Long Beach
- The Aquarium of the Pacific
- Museum of Latin American Art
- Neighborhoods
- Altruism

The Mayor's Initiative

- To Make Long Beach a Model of a Climate Resilient City

What Does It Mean?

- Climate Resilient City = a city able to continue to function in the face of challenging circumstances due to climate change, and to recover quickly from disruptions.

Four Dimensions of Resilience

- **Health and Well-Being**: Everyone living and working in the city has access to what they need to survive ***and thrive.***
- **Economy and Society:** The social & financial systems that enable urban populations to live peacefully, and act collectively are in place.
- **Leadership and Strategy: T**he processes that promote effective leadership, inclusive decision-making, empowered stakeholders, and integrated planning are in place.
- **Infrastructure and Environment**: The man-made and natural systems that provide critical services, protect, and connect urban assets enabling the flow of goods, services, and knowledge are in place.

The Steps

- Step 1: Identify the Problems
- Step 2: Assess the Vulnerabilities
- Step 3: Investigate Options
- Step 4: Take Action
- Step 5: Monitor Progress

Regional Priority Problems Associated With Climate Change

On Short Time Scale—Out to 2030 & 2050

- Increase in Hot Spells
- Drought
- Degraded Air Quality
- Coastal Flooding

Over Longer Time Scale—Out to 2075 & 2100

- Sea Level Rise & Coastal Inundation
- Coastal Flooding

Making Long Beach a Model of a Climate Resilient City

- A Human-Centered Approach
- The poor and the elderly are most vulnerable

Some Key Partners

- The City is BOTH the Client and a Partner through its many relevant departments
- POLB
- CSULB
- NOAA
  - National Weather Service
  - National Ocean Service
  - Coastal Services Center
- National Research Council
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography Coastal Scientists
- EarthWatch
- Art Center College of Design

Making Long Beach a Model of a Climate Resilient City

- The timeline assigned by the Mayor
  - A preliminary report to the City Council this summer
  - Complete draft report by end of 2015

Our Three Panelists

- **Heather Tomley**, Director of Environmental Planning, Port of Long Beach
- **Brian Ulaszewski**, Executive Director of City Fabrick
- **Kevin Wattier,** General Manager, Long Beach Water Department