

November 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 2

## Coming Soon: ICO's 3rd Annual Meeting

Check your inbox, or your mail slot, for information about ICO's 3rd Annual Meeting, coming soon to Congregational Church.

We will, as in years past, celebrate the diversity and vibrancy that is at the core of our work. Member congregations are encouraged to bring at least two dishes that are emblematic of their culultural heritage, with enough made to serve 30 people. We are also looking for donations and gift baskets to feature both in our raffle and in our silent auction. Finally, and most importantly, we are looking for you. We need volunteers for set-up and clean-up, to manage the auction and raffle, and to coordinate donations and food. And, above all, we are looking for you to come and join us as we celebrate ICO's gifts.

So, join us for food, fellowship and fun. Contact your local ICO leader, or us at the ICO office. Please call (562) 984-2727, or email us at [info@greaterlongbeachico.org](mailto:info@greaterlongbeachico.org) to be part of the annual meeting. And don't forget to visit our website, [www.greaterlongbeachico.org](http://www.greaterlongbeachico.org), for more information and updates.

5600 Linden Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90805  
(562) 984-2727  
[www.greaterlongbeachico.org](http://www.greaterlongbeachico.org)

## ICO pursues three-pronged strategy on housing and homelessness

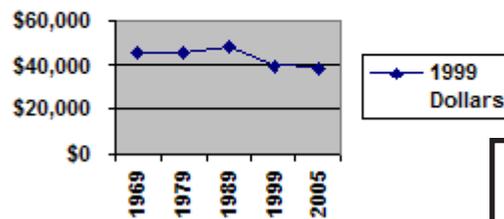
The shooting that left five people dead at a homeless encampment near the 405 and 710 freeways is a tragic example of the very real hardships that face thousands of residents of Long Beach who are homeless or near-homeless. This tragedy also speaks to the need for Long Beach to pursue meaningful measures to increase the supply of housing that city residents at all income levels can afford.

ICO leaders are pursuing a three-pronged effort with a variety of partners to engage in the housing and homelessness issue, an effort that began before the recent tragic events. First, ICO and others are involved in an effort to ensure a dedicated funding source is secured for The Long Beach Housing Trust Fund – which ICO leaders were instrumental in getting adopted in 2006. At the time, we believed, as did members of the Long Beach City Council, that a portion of City “Bed Tax” revenues were being used for the Fund. Having learned that is not the case, ICO leaders are working with Housing Long Beach to

ensure the City’s Housing Element includes a designated funding source for the Trust Fund. The City Council is scheduled to consider the Housing Element at its Nov. 11 Council meeting.

At the same time, ICO leaders are working with housing advocates to get the City to adopt an inclusionary zoning ordinance that will require all new housing developments to include a certain

Long Beach Median Family Income

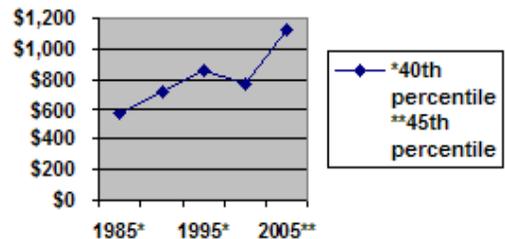


number of affordable housing units.

Finally, ICO leaders in partnership with Long Beach Community Action Network (CAN) have embarked upon a comprehensive city-wide initiative designed to enlist all

Council districts in designating and implementing local strategies to address the homelessness issue in support of the City’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The focus of this effort is outreach to Long Beach faith congregations to invite them to participate in a campaign to implement the Plan across the city, ensuring that the housing and support services envisioned by the Plan are not concentrated in those communities that already shoulder a disproportionate share of the burden. ICO’s approach, which included a recent meeting with Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster and some 30 local clergy, seeks to stimulate conversations in congregations and neighborhoods to identify modest initiatives that will directly impact homelessness in all nine Council districts and take the City’s policy document and transform it into a real community action plan.

Long Beach Fair Market Rents



**Long Beach City Council to consider final draft of Long Beach Housing Element at the November 11 Council meeting, 5:00 pm at City Hall. Please attend and make sure the voice of the community is heard.**