

City Of Long Beach Signs Up For Commuter Choice Leadership Initiative

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Staff Writer

Responding to the establishment of a voluntary National Standard of Excellence for employer-provided commuter benefits, the City of Long Beach has signed up for the

Commuter Choice Leadership Initiative.

"It seemed like a great opportunity for the City of Long Beach to sign up for the program to receive the recognition that we deserve for the program that we've had in place for over 10 years," said Sharron Daniels, special projects officer for the Long Beach Technology Services Department.

The city's commuter program includes the following:

- Guaranteed ride home for carpoolers or users of alternative transportation in case of a family emergency or unexpected overtime work;
- Bicycle lockers and showers installed

in City Hall for employees bicycling to work there;

- Luncheons and drawings for employees who carpool or don't use their own automobile;
- Free Long Beach Transit passes for employees; and
- Availability of 13 vans for a vanpool program, not only for city employees but for any commuter who lives within the city limits.

The initiative was started by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation in an effort to work on the reduction of traffic, pollution, parking space demand and taxes for both employers and employees. The program is also meant to increase employee job satisfaction and improve employee recruiting and retention.

While the City of Long Beach joined the initiative because it mirrored the city's efforts to cut down on automotive emissions, the program is open to any employer, regardless of number of employees. For more information, call toll-free at 888/856-3131 or visit www.commuterchoice.gov

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