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## Schipske ups ante on city casinos

**L.B.: Casino-style gambling at tourist spots would bring needed revenue, councilwoman says.**

By Kelly Puente, Staff writer

Article Launch ed: 08/19/2007 10: 30:56 PM PDT

LONG BEACH - 5th District Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske would like to see first-class casinos placed in Long Beach's tourist spots.

Schipske will ask the City Council on Tuesday to consider having the City Attorney advise them on the legal issues related to allowing casino-style gambling in the city.

If the issue requires the vote of Long Beach residents, Schipske would like to place it on the next general election ballot in February 2008.

Long Beach voters rejected a similar proposal in 1992, which would have allowed poker tables on or near the Queen Mary.

The proposal, called Proposition J, lost with 46 percent of the vote.

Schipske could not be reached for comment on Sunday, but said on

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**What:** Long Beach City Council meeting

**When:** 5 p.m. Tuesday

**Where:** Council Chambers, City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.

**TV:** Broadcast live on Charter Cable channel 8 and replayed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday

**Internet:** Live broadcast and previous council meetings available at [www.longbeach.gov/cityclerk/council\\_](http://www.longbeach.gov/cityclerk/council_)

her blog at

[schipskedistrict5journal.com](http://schipskedistrict5journal.com) that recent mainstream coverage of gambling has caused her to change her mind on the subject.

"I would not have proposed this several years ago ...," she wrote. "The reason I have changed my mind about pursuing this avenue is that poker has become mainstream through the televised games of the World Poker Tour (WPT) - which is based in Culver City and should be lured away to set up shop in Long Beach."

Casinos, she said, could bring Long Beach much-needed revenue for public services and infrastructure.

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Schipske lists possible options, including card clubs, where poker and other card games are legal throughout California, or Indian casinos similar to Las Vegas-style gambling, which have certain legal restrictions.

City Manager Bob Shannon on Sunday, said the issue is more complicated than simply placing it on the February 2008 ballot.

"There are a number of complicating factors," he said, citing state legislation as one major example.

Shannon declined to further comment on the issue before the Tuesday night council meeting.

Schipske on Tuesday will also urge the City Council to request that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance prohibiting the parking of off-duty limousines in residential zones.

She cited Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and San Francisco as cities with similar ordinances.

Off-duty limousines can pose a problem for parking-impacted neighborhoods, she said in her

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proposal, and can become "an eyesore and `attractive nuisance' to the neighborhood."

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