



**Minutes of the Public Safety Task Force**  
**Monday, November 14, 2011—9:00 AM**  
DLBA Office, Executive Conference Room  
100 West Broadway, Suite 120  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**PRESENT**

**Voting Members:** Janet Moore, Jann Buiz, Linda Krieger and Jeff Pilbeam

**Advisors:** Broc Coward, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council District; Don Darnauer, Downtown Residential Council

**Guests:** Doug Haulbert, Long Beach City Prosecutor

**Staff:** Mary Coburn

**ABSENT**

**Voting Members:** Syndi Croad

**Advisors:** Commander John Benedetti, LBPD South Division; Lena Gonzalez, 1st Council District; Eric Kianpour, LASD; Larry Black, The Varden Hotel; Bill Doll, Office of the Mayor

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Janet Moore called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Jann Buiz made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections from the November 14, 2011, Task Force meeting. Jeff Pilbeam seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Linda Krieger abstained.

**III. TASK FORCE UPDATES**

Mary Coburn reported that the first reading of the Aggressive/Passive Solicitation Ordinance was heard and approved by City Council on November 8. There was little discussion and the Vice Mayor thanked the PSTF for their efforts in identifying, researching and making recommendations that affects the quality of life of all residents.

There was a brief discussion relative to Occupy LB's appearance at City Council as well as their activities in Lincoln Park. City Council asked the City Manager to find out what other cities are doing, why there is an ordinance against camping in parks and to suggest ways a "free speech" zone can be established. Currently Occupy LB can't stay in the park after 10 PM. After 10 PM, individuals can stay on the sidewalk without tents and can't block the sidewalk. City Council is suggesting a policy to apply to all organizations regardless of their message.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Community Court – Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert provided an overview of the City's Community Service Worker (CSW) Program which is:

- A diversion program for certain non-violent, petty offenders.
- A way to relieve the escalating case load on the court.
- An alternative to jail sentences and/or fines.
- An effort to enhance the City's cleanup efforts at no additional cost to tax payers.
- A partnership with other City departments and neighborhood groups to provide a service to the general public.
- A way for lawbreakers to give back to the community where the violation occurred.

Community service workers clean beaches, parks, alleys and City facilities which.

This program is especially important with many of the LA county courtrooms closing, along with a reduction in judges. It is questionable whether retiring folks will be replaced.

50 to 100 participants sign up weekly averaging 3,000 hours per month. Participants are sent to do alley and beach clean-up. The Los Cerritos Wetlands uses workers as well. Every site has a supervisor who is responsible for faxing the names and hours worked to the office of the City Prosecutor's the following day. Nicole Velasquez manages the program for the City Prosecutor's office.

In addition to this program, there is a county-wide program which is managed by the Volunteer Center. Individuals are not screened and it is not unusual for folks with a criminal or violent record to participant.

There is a county-wide homeless court which pairs rehabilitation with counseling and works with the Substance Abuse Foundation. The program bundles all of an individual's non-violent court citations which are dismissed upon successful completion of the program. Individuals with Long Beach issued dismissals are sent to the City Prosecutor to sign off.

Another Long Beach program called SHORTSTOP diverts non-violent juvenile offenders ages 10-17 away from the juvenile justice system through legal education for the juvenile and their parents. Managed by the Long Beach Bar Association Foundation, the goals are twofold:

- To improve the lives of youth and guide them towards productive citizenship by providing legal education, strengthening parenting skills, improving family communication and emphasizing the importance of education.
- To keep youth from becoming repeat offenders by holding them accountable for their behavior and providing them with information that will assist them in thinking about the consequences of their actions, thus leading them to make better choices.

Attorneys volunteer their time to teach all SHORTSTOP classes. Other professionals in the community volunteer to be interviewed by SHORTSTOP youth as part of the homework assignments. These valuable volunteers are the heart of the SHORTSTOP Program, devoting over 1,000 hours annually in order to make a difference in the lives of young people.

During their time in the program, SHORTSTOP participants visit the courthouse lock-up facility, get a dose of reality from young men of the Atlantic Recovery Program, engage in peer group discussions, practice communicating with their parents, complete intensive homework assignments and are held accountable for their behavior. Program statistics indicated that 97 percent of the young people who completed SHORTSTOP did not re-offend during the subsequent 12 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM. The next meeting will be at 9:00 AM on Monday, December 12, 2011.