



**Minutes of the Public Safety Task Force
Monday, October 17, 2011—9:30 AM**

DLBA Office, Executive Conference Room
100 West Broadway, Suite 120
Long Beach, CA 90802

PRESENT

Voting Members: Janet Moore, Syndi Croad, Jann Buiz, and Jeff Pilbeam

Guests: Doug Haulbert, City Prosecutor, and Don Darnauer, Downtown Residential Council

Staff: Mary Coburn

ABSENT

Voting Members: Linda Krieger

Advisors: Commander John Benedetti, LBPD South Division; Susanna Gonzalez, 1st Council District; Broc Coward, 2nd Council District; Eric Kianpour, LASD; Larry Black, The Varden Hotel; Bill Doll, Office of the Mayor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Syndi Croad called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Janet Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2011, Task Force meeting. Jann Buiz seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed.

III. TASK FORCE UPDATES

LBPD South Division Commander John Benedetti submitted the following information via email. There have been several strong armed street robberies (3) on Long Beach Blvd between 4th and 10th Streets. One individual was taken into custody (boyfriend steals ex-girlfriend's cell phone). The other suspect was a male black on a orange bike who grabbed the victim's backpack around 4:30 AM. The victim was schizophrenic and on

medication. The third was a male Hispanic, ex-boyfriend who stole a laptop, cell phone and jewelry. Arrest is pending.

Auto burglary numbers are decreasing, along with auto thefts. There have been five residential burglaries on 4th Street between Maine to Pacific this past week. Loss included laptops, Ipads, and cell phones. Entry is through unlocked doors and windows. No suspect descriptions.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Community Court – Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert’s office is responsible for prosecuting all adult misdemeanor crimes committed within the City of Long Beach, such as battery, theft, vandalism, DUI, drug possession, domestic violence, prostitution, brandishing a weapon, graffiti, hate crimes, and code enforcement. Annually the office handles 15,000 formal misdemeanors which do not include infractions. Felonies are handled by the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office.

Haubert’s office has focused on gang issues and has been successful in securing and enforcing injunctions. Injunctions have been issued for the East Side Longos, West Side Longos and the Insane Crip Gangs. The North Side Longo and Sureno Gang Injunction targets local violent street gangs with ties to the Mexican Mafia. Adding the Sureno Gang includes members from all over Los Angeles County. Individuals included in the injunction are prohibited from associating with known gang members, drinking in public or possessing loading firearms. If discovered violating the injunction, the individual would be charged with whatever crime has been committed as well as the willful disobedience of a court order.

There is an opt-out program for those members seeking to leave the gang life behind. Participants must disconnect from the gang, work or attend school full-time, remove tattoos, remove themselves from gang turf and have no contact with police. Individuals may no longer join the military to escape criminal sanctions.

Due to prison overcrowding, non-violent, non-sexual felonies are sent to county jail rather than state prison. As a result, the county jail is releasing misdemeanors offenders with very little time served. For example: An individual who hit three cars and was convicted of a DUI and sentenced to 90 days in jail, was out in four days. Long Beach has an agreement with LA County to hold convicted gang members for a longer time.

The City Prosecutor’s office has suffered some dramatic cuts in funding – reduced \$1 million out of their \$5 million budget. As a result the office has looked to innovation in prosecuting individuals and eventually written files will be replaced by electronic files.

The City Prosecutor's Office launched the Parent Accountability and Chronic Truancy (PACT) Program, a collaborative effort including Long Beach Police Department, and Long Beach Unified School District. Parents of children in grades K-8 can be criminally prosecuted under a new State law if their children become "chronic truants" by missing more than 10% of all school days without an excuse. In addition, parents can be criminally prosecuted for contributing to the delinquency of a minor if the parent causes or encourages a minor to break the law.

The Community Service Worker (CSW) program is administered in coordination with the Long Beach Superior Court, the Long Beach Volunteer Center, and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. Through CSW persons convicted of certain non-violent crimes can elect to perform community service in lieu of jail time and/or payment of fines. Cost to the individual to participate is \$100. Supervised individuals are assigned to clean the City parks, beaches and alleys and are required to work 8 to 160 hours. 74 individuals participated in the program in September.

Several years ago the City Prosecutor's Office assigned attorneys to work with LBPD, the Community Development Code Enforcement officials, and area residents in each of the four LBPD divisions (north, south, east and west) to identify problem locations and community issues, and to target criminal activity. There was a 30% drop in the rate of high visibility, quality of life crimes. The program was dropped due to lack of funding.

Currently all panhandling cases are assigned to one person to ensure uniform treatment and sentences.

Currently, the City Prosecutor's Office is working on a stay away order, which would be a condition of probation, and would ban problem individuals from the Belmont Shore area. This procedure could be applied to the Downtown's entertainment district.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. The next meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Monday, November 14, 2011.