



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

MEMBERS

Cheryl Roberts, Chair

Rev. Antonio Gallardo, V.
Chair

Paul Boyd-Batstone

Terrence Krieger

Robb Smith

Vincent Severen

Paul Hargis

Andrew Florentino

Teri Tan

STAFF:

Stew Stephens
Programming Assistant

Juan Torres
Operations Manager

James Ahumada
Sr. Vice President & Deputy
CEO

Cesar Garay
Block By Block Operations
Manager

100 West Broadway, Ste 120
Long Beach, CA 90802
T: 562.436.4259

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 31, 2024
3:00 PM

DLBA Conference Room
100 W Broadway, Suite 235
Long Beach, CA 90802

Voting Present: Cheryl Roberts, Rev. Antonio Gallardo, Robb Smith, Terri Krieger, Paul Hargis.

Voting Absent: Vincent Severen, Paul Boyd-Batstone, Andrew Florentino, Teri Tan.

DLBA Staff: Stew Stephens, Juan Torres, Veronica Giron

Guests: None.

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair
Meeting Presentation. Called to Order 3:04 PM.
2. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from November 29, 2023 Committee Meeting.**
VOTE: 1st: Smith; 2nd: Krieger.
MOTION: None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion Passes.
3. FY23-24 Finalize Committee Working Group Projects
 - a. De-Escalation Training/Response Guide
 - b. Safety Audits
 - c. Fresh Start
 - Roberts reviewed the three project descriptions & discusses which members are involved with each project, allowing opportunities for members to discuss their interest or accept the groupings. The Response Guide/De-escalation Training will provide informative resources to be dispersed by DLBA to local business owners and resident civilians. The Audit-walk and Scooter Safety will focus on utilizing the GoLB App to report crime, safety hazards, sidewalks, trees, and lighting, which will link to the Google form (created in previous DLBA sub-committee projects) to keep track of reporting observations. This will combine the scooter safety assessment, and also explore what efforts may be made to improve ADA accessibility downtown. The Fresh Start program (a charitable donation drive for hygiene items for unhoused individuals), will be getting expanded to include food and dry goods for vulnerable Cal State students and eventually to Long Beach Community College students. These donations will be collected by various organizations in partnership with the DLBA.
 - Hargis asked if the Response Guide/De-escalation Training will include or reflect the Safety Guide used by the Clean & Safe team. One of the most important aspects of this guide should inform people how dealing with altercations (often with mentally unwell or unhoused individuals) could prove dangerous both physically and mentally, and have severe legal ramifications. Torres stated that another crucial resource to be promoted is the Community Crisis Response Team. The sub-committee should attempt to categorize the types of incidents, altercations, and situations that would be most common: aggressive/violent behavior, at-risk youth, vandalism, property destruction, drug addiction needs (overdoses, Narcan, etc.), medical assistance, to name a few potential categories. Roberts said that the Response Guide will be compiled utilizing additional



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resources from the public safety community partners including the LBPD, Fire Departments, City Prosecutor's office, homeless outreach organizations, and neighborhood associations/ authorities.

- Sub-committee deliverables:
 - Group #1, The Response Guide/De-Escalation sub-committee will create an outline of all the sought-out guides, various resources, as well as formulate a creation schedule for each sub-point.
 - Group #2, The Audit-Walk and Safety Scooter sub-committee will also schedule times to meet, map, and divide up the district's areas for scheduled safety-walks.
 - Group #3, the Fresh Start Program sub-committee will be joined by Veronica Giron (the Homeless Outreach Coordinator for the Clean and Safe Team) to develop outreach strategies, connect with donation orgs, and Robb Smith will connect the sub-committee with contacts at CSULB and eventually LBCC.

4. **ACTION:** Confirm subcommittee groups and set meeting dates.

VOTE: 1st: Krieger; 2nd: Smith.

MOTION: None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion Passes.

5. Public Safety Partners Report

- a. Long Beach Police Department- South Division
 - b. Department of Public Works- Clean Team
 - c. Department of Health and Human Services
 - d. City Prosecutor
- Torres will be working with LBPD to replace Sgt. Ernest, who will be moving to a different division on the force, with an informed PD representative who can bring community partner updates for the committee and remain in good standing with Clean & Safe efforts.
 - In brief review, the first follow up in an altercation is to create outreach and service opportunities, while the second step is to contact quality-of-life officers or PD depending on needs. Unfortunately, federal law is stopping organizations and enforcement agencies from properly dealing with stubborn unhoused and mentally ill individuals. There are lots of repeat offenders , cyclical problems, and individuals who will simply return once asked to leave. We are attempting to train the DLBA Safety Ambassadors with help from the Prosecutor's Office on what steps to take and how to impact difficult situations within the bounds of the law and with safety for our staff as a primary concern as well.
 - Regarding the frequency of drug overdoses in our city, as well as the fentanyl crisis plaguing the country at large, the city has been given greater access to Narcan which is available to emergency responders, local housing/mental-health orgs, and may be made more widely available. The CSI security team's involvement in downtown patrolling was also briefly discussed, as well as the difficulty we have faced in getting people to properly claim victimhood status when an issue occurs. People do not often want to give their personal information to the police and also do not want to be forced to show up in court.

6. Staff Report

- a. Clean and Safe
 - i. Homeless Outreach Coordinator
 - ii. Ambassadors Trainings



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iii. CSI Security

- Veronica Giron gave an introduction about herself and the position of the Homeless Outreach Coordinator, which will include lots of networking with community partners and relationship building with both local orgs and the unhoused individuals in the LB downtown. Gallardo asked what the purpose of the Homeless Outreach Coordinator position was, to which Torres replied that the goal was provide more assistance and the collection of resources for the unhoused and unwell individuals in the downtown area. This position is heavily focused on aligning those in need with the appropriate services.
- The DLBA is taking other steps to address and connect with the Community Crisis Intervention team, Healthcare-in-Action, mobile physical & mental services, STD services, and the like. These are crucial new connections, which will hopefully be added to the Response Guide resources.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Public Comment (three minutes on all non-agenda items)

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:08 PM.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

3:00 PM

Location: DLBA Conference Room (100 W Broadway, Suite 235)

***Mission: Cultivate, preserve, and promote a healthy, safe
and prosperous Downtown for all***

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