



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

MEMBERS

Cheryl Roberts, Chair

Rev. Antonio Gallardo, V.
Chair

Paul Boyd-Batstone

Terrence Krieger

Robb Smith

Vincent Severen

Paul Hargis

Teri Tan

STAFF:

Juan Torres
Operations Manager

Cesar Garay
Block By Block Operations
Manager

Veronica Giron
Block By Block Homeless
Outreach Coordinator

Stew Stephens
Programming Assistant

James Ahumada
Sr. Vice President & Deputy
CEO

100 West Broadway, Ste 235
Long Beach, CA 90802
T: 562.436.4259

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 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, Paul Hargis, Teri Tan.

Voting Absent: Vincent Severen, Terri Krieger, Paul Boyd-Batstone.

DLBA Staff: Stew Stephens, Juan Torres, Cesar Garay, Veronica Giron.

Guests: Sgt. Derek Ernest, Sgt. Lisa McCourt.

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to Order at 3:02 PM.
2. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from [January 31, 2024](#) Committee Meeting.**
VOTE: 1st: Hargis; 2nd: Smith.
MOTION: None Opposed. No Abstentions. Motion Passes
3. FY23-24 Working Groups Project Update
 - a. De-Escalation Training/Response Guide
 - b. Safety Audit
 - c. Fresh Start
 - Roberts reviewed the working group projects and their progress thus far, going over each individual project in summation.
4. 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
 - Hargis asked how the crime/theft trends have changed since Covid. Sgt. Ernest responded by saying that the LBPD crime analyst can provide exact numbers for these metrics. Sgt. Ernest introduced and informed the group that Sgt. Lisa McCourt will be taking over as the PD representative for the committee and other community outreach events. Sgt. McCourt discussed recent and upcoming events which have contributed to the recent uptick in crime, noise complaints, break-ins, etc. The LBPD will often inform the committee of organized crime, break-ins, and known criminal activity to promote better security efforts and best practices. Despite the decrease in the overall number of officers, downtown LB has been staffed and patrolled normally. Sgt. Ernest assured the group that downtown is the highest priority patrol area and maintains the highest number of officers in the city. Despite lower than normal staff numbers, the PD will see an increase in new hires in the coming months/years.
 - Hargis asked what the main issues are with the smash and grabs in downtown (specifically the Pike). Sgts. Ernest and McCourt explained that sentencing has been more lax in recent years, as a result of policy and litigation changes, so many of the thieves may be arrested, but are released shortly after to continue committing crimes. Sgt. Ernest stated that the consequences for theft are not severe enough to mitigate the crime problems the downtown area is facing. Hargis also asked how the construction in the DT area has affected the flow of traffic, or if it represents a



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significant safety concern. Sgt. Ernest responded that the construction has caused many obstructions for traffic, which will likely only increase in the month leading up to the Grand Prix. Sgt. McCourt informed the committee that the South Division includes the area between the 710 to Cherry, from Anaheim to the Waterfront.

- Garay asked what is being done to enforce curfew (10PM) for the juveniles in Lincoln Park who contribute to the petty crime afflicting the area. Sgt. McCourt responded by saying that very little can be done to address these issues as the juvenile groups that congregate in Lincoln Park are often on skateboards, bikes, and other micro-mobility devices, which make it difficult to catch when approached, and will quickly shift to other areas before the police even arrive on the scene to address complaints.
5. Staff Report
 - a. Clean and Safe
 - i. Homeless Outreach Coordinator
 - ii. CSI
 - iii. Community Crisis Response (CCR)
 - Torres introduced Veronica Giron and her newly formed position, the Homeless Outreach Coordinator. Giron gave an overview of her work in the position: she is trying to get people housed, and provided with necessary services, with the help of MSC, the Long Beach Rescue Mission (newly opened), and other homeless aid organizations and agencies. She has also been working with the Library, which has numerous programs and housing opportunities. Torres discussed the CSI bike officers, their routes, and the length of their contract (which ends in 3 months). Torres also provided an overview of the Community Crisis Response team presentation on 2/27 with the Clean & Safe Team. This presentation was set up because many of the issues our C&S Team deal with may not need PD's presence, which often only results in arrests or can further exacerbate or agitate the situation, whereas in some cases, the CCR's presence may lead to better outcomes, and even occasionally get people the help they need, though not intended for violent or criminal situations. The goal of this partnership is to relieve some of the pressure on PD to deal with every situation, and spread the response across various city departments accordingly. Gallardo reinforces the benefit of this multi-pronged approach and sought to expand, fund, or aid CCR efforts, in whatever ways the DLBA can.
6. Old Business
 7. New Business
 8. Public Comment (three minutes on all non-agenda items)
 9. Adjournment
Adjourned at 3:44 PM

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, March 27, 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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