



**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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REVISED MINUTES

Wednesday, March 27, 2024
3:00 PM

DTLB Alliance Conference Room

100 W Broadway, Suite 235
Long Beach, CA 90802

Voting Present: Cheryl Roberts, Vincent Severen, Terri Krieger, Paul Boyd-Batstone, Paul Hargis.

Voting Absent: Rev. Antonio Gallardo, Robb Smith, Teri Tan

DTLB Alliance Staff: Stew Stephens, Juan Torres

Guests: Laura Reimer

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to Order 3:02 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from [February 28, 2024](#) Committee Meeting.**
MOTION: 1st: Paul Boyd-Batstone; 2nd: Terri Krieger.
VOTE: None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion Passes
4. FY23-24 Working Groups Project Update
 - a. De-Escalation Training/Response Guide
 - b. Safety Audit
 - c. Fresh Start
 - Torres offered an update on the working group projects and reviewed their progress. The subcommittee for Working Group 1, focusing on the De-escalation Training and Response Guide, is scheduled to meet on 4/11 with Sgt. Lisa McCourt. Reimer also offered her availability for April to offer further advising to the formulation of the response guide, from the perspective of the city prosecutors office. The sub-committee members will prepare questions for the public safety partners in advance to be added to the working document.
 - Boyd-Batstone discussed the progress with working group 2, the Safety Audit Walk sub-committee. They decided to connect this project to the city's GoLB app as a means of reporting/archiving issues found during the safety walks. Additionally, the sub-committee is trying to work with 'Coffee, Conversations, & Clean-up' with the Friends of Lincoln Park.
 - Torres updated the group on the Fresh Start Program progress for working group 3. This sub-committee will focus on coordinating and gathering donations of hygiene products and other goods to distribute to local orgs and agencies who will ensure they end up in the hands of those who need them most. In their attempt to expand this program to CSULB, the sub-committee discovered that the university would prefer toiletry and hygiene donations for students, as opposed to food and dry good items. The working group will accept whatever donations they can to redistribute evenly with the help of the Homeless Outreach Coordinator. The group also discussed the date range of this program, with no clear dates currently set, but generally trying to focus the program over the summer months.



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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
- Reimer was given an opportunity to discuss elements of public safety and the city prosecutor's office. She informed the committee that more work is being done to train officers on the use of the prosecutor's mobile app, which helps identify if perpetrators have prior marks against their record, or other history in the criminal justice system, to make it easier for police to quickly determine how to proceed with arrests and enforcement. Reimer provided updates on known persons of interest and other processed or at-large criminals who community members have been concerned about recently. In addition to these efforts, the city prosecutor's office hopes to attend more community meetings to strategize with citizens and better address public safety issues.
 - Torres remarked on the rise in criminal or destructive behavior by groups of juveniles in/around Lincoln Park, which was also connected to the headline incident that recently occurred at the Pike, where large crowds of young people gathered at the Pike, and which caused businesses in that area to shut down, requiring a greater police/security presence in the area, and which may have been linked to a shooting on Promenade shortly after, though no solid connection has been made between the two incidents. Roberts discussed this juvenile gathering's impact on the Pike, and their immediate and long-term strategies to combat these problems. It is believed the juveniles in this group met, planned, and coordinated the disturbance on an Instagram account titled @LACounty.events, and that the event began as an opportunity for two teenage girls to fight publicly, giving other students and young people a chance to watch and broadcast the incident. Police presence at the Pike before, during, and after the incident proved massively helpful to mitigating damage to the local businesses or citizens, diffuse conflicts, and resulted in several arrests, including the two teenage girls. While still an alarming situation, the response to this incident by LBPD, Pike Security, and the local community represents the broader collaboration and mitigation of public harm that the committee is designed to discuss and impact. There has been a rise in similar juvenile criminal behavior, vandalism, disturbance of the peace, and other chaotic incidents recently that often target the elderly, disabled, or unhoused and mentally unwell individuals in the DT area, as well as local businesses in dangerous and damaging smash-and-grabs. Unfortunately, the juveniles' use of skateboards, bikes, scooters, and other micromobility devices often makes it difficult for the police to catch them in the act of committing crimes as they can quickly get away to areas inaccessible to squad cars, plus prosecution and holding is more difficult for police as there are different restrictions in place for juvenile criminal activity. Krieger asked how we can better mirror Del Amo mall's response to similar juvenile issues by enforcing age and guardianship restrictions at the Pike. Roberts mentioned that curfew enforcement at the city level could help, and might make gathering in large groups more difficult for the juveniles. Many community members are very concerned by these incidents and the danger they pose to the DT area. Reimer also informed the group that gangs will often recruit and send out juveniles to commit organized crime since they can't be punished like adults. The LBPD and the city prosecutor's office are monitoring the social media accounts for upcoming criminal juvenile activity, though the groups are quick to be abandoned for newer accounts once an incident occurs.



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- The committee also discussed the upcoming Grand Prix and difficulties it brings to public safety: in the past there have been more shootings, robberies, and other criminal incidents during the event as it results in the interaction of more drunk and rowdy individuals, non-local elements, and is difficult to patrol without taking from the much-needed patrols in the rest of DT.
6. Staff Report
 - a. Clean and Safe
 - i. Homeless Outreach Coordinator
 - ii. Outreach: Pike Security, Eat Village Community Meeting
 - iii. Collaboration: Beautify Pine, Alley Busters
 - The staff report will be delayed for next time, so that committee members have more time to attend the Conversations with a Cop event occurring at Modica's Deli
 7. Old Business
 8. New Business
 - Boyd-Batstone discussed the scaffolding at the 1st Congregational Church, which have been erected as a safety precaution, and are necessary for improvements to the building. Boyd-Batstone also wanted to take the opportunity to thank the DTLB Alliance and specifically James Ahumada for his work getting more handicap parking at the church.
 9. Public Comment (three minutes on all non-agenda items)
 10. Adjournment
Adjourned at 3:40 PM.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

3:00 PM

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

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

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