



**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

Veronica Giron
Block By Block Homeless
Outreach Coordinator

Stew Stephens
Programming Assistant

James Ahumada
Sr. Vice President & Deputy
CEO

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
3:00 PM

DTLB Alliance Conference Room

100 W Broadway, Suite 235
Long Beach, CA 90802

Voting Present: Rev. Antonio Gallardo, Robb Smith, Terri Krieger, Paul Boyd-Batstone, Paul Hargis.

Voting Absent: Cheryl Roberts, Vincent Severen, Teri Tan.

Staff: Juan Torres, Veronica Giron, Stew Stephens.

Guests: Jeff Garcia (LBPDP Patrol Resource Officer), Sgt. Lisa McCourt.

1. Call to Order – Rev. Antonio Gallardo, V. Chair
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to order 3:02 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from [March 27, 2024](#) Committee Meeting.**
VOTE: 1st: Smith; 2nd: Hargis.
MOTION: Boyd-Batstone Opposed (requested revision regarding language of the church scaffolding in March minutes). No abstentions. Motion moved.
4. FY23-24 Working Groups Project Update [20] Minutes
 - a. De-Escalation Training/Response Guide
 - b. Safety Audit
 - c. Fresh Start
 - (a.) Updates were provided on each working group project, beginning with the De-escalation Training/Response Guide. The working group met with Sgt. McCourt and Laura Reimer (with the City Prosecutor's office) to help develop the guide. The point of this guide is to inform businesses about how to respond to various scenarios including the removal of transient or troubled individuals from a premises, how to mitigate theft, vandalism, unruly or violent customers or nearby patrons, etc. The guide is also intended to provide an easily accessible list of emergency numbers to contact for various situations. Gallardo commented that cooperation with the police (especially when attempting to file a report and claiming victim status) enables better mitigation of issues many businesses in downtown face to work with the City of LB and PD. Sgt. McCourt noted that PD response to calls by business owners and residents is never a blanket solution but varies depending on the circumstances. Hargis recommended incorporating the Clean & Safe team as response in addition to first responders. Boyd-Batstone stated that a 'Response Guide' implies dealing with something after-the-fact, and asked if there was a way to remain on the preparatory side before thefts or other scenarios occur (prevention). Gallardo added to this by asking if the LBPDP can perform security assessments to which Sgt. McCourt replied that this guide is more about mitigation and education to bolster proper activation and response.
 - (b.) Boyd-Batstone gave an update regarding the Safety Audit Walk working group project. This working group has begun working with the GoLB App and will be holding a safety walk after the committee meeting. Torres informed the group that he will also be looking into lighting and pavement issues and finding the proper channels to deal with those issues. Boyd-Batstone recommends the committee keep a record of



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outstanding and completed safety issues around DT and noted that walking in the evening makes for a good review of poorly lit areas. In the next meeting we will discuss the findings from the safety audit walk taking place that evening.

- (c.) Smith updated the group regarding the Fresh Start program and stated that they were about ready to begin collecting items. He asked the group where they thought we would locate the donation centers. Some ideas offered include CSULB, the Viking Vault at LBCC, Food Pantry, US Veterans centers, etc. Though there had been discussion in the past about allowing food donation items for CSULB students, the group decided to stick with hygiene items to make the program less confusing for donors and focus on the things needed most. In past years many hand sanitizers were donated and proved useful for those in need. Smith mentioned that Christina Limon at CSULB stated the students were also greatly in need of hygiene items over food. The timeline for donations will take place between May 1st – June 15th. Torres spoke with the Alliance marketing team to promote the donation program. We will also be putting collections in local HOA, which were the highest source of donations in past years. Krieger asked how we can use technology to make donating easier (through the use of QR codes or preset wish lists, Amazon orders, etc.). Torres informed the group that the Alliance link will host the master list of needed items. Hargis asked if other organizations and HOAs can request more donation boxes which Torres confirmed would be fine. The team is ready to launch the project with the Alliance website now hosting many avenues for donation.

5. Public Safety Partners Report

[25] Minutes

- Long Beach Police Department- South Division
 - Department of Public Works- Clean Team
 - Department of Health and Human Services
 - City Prosecutor
- (a.) Sgt. McCourt gave an update from the LBPD, including the recent juvenile arrests made during the incident at the Pike. Unfortunately, those juveniles arrested were released the following day. It has been difficult for PD, as prosecuting minors is a lot more difficult: they often get a slap on the wrist, with no bail, and a quick release. If thefts are under \$900, even adults will walk with few meaningful repercussions. Krieger asked if neglectful parents can be punished, to which McCourt responded that this is often out of PD's hands and laws would need to change at the local and state levels. Another string of thefts has been taking place from a group on TikTok called the "Kia Boys," so named for focusing thefts on Kia vehicles in LB. She discussed the Grand Prix and noted that it went off without a hitch this year, with no apparent danger, a small peaceful protest, and minimal issues or complaints to PD. Krieger asked Sgt. McCourt what can be done to reduce the volume of a specific preacher at the Grand Prix whose amplified public sermons caused a disruption to the areas around him. The answer from McCourt was that unless the volume is over a certain decibel range, little can be done, as he is protected by the right to free speech in public areas. Krieger also asked about accessing his building, West Ocean, during the Grand Prix, due to traffic changes in the area. Accessibility is found through Queen's Way to Seaside, but Sgt. Ernest of PD special events will also have more info on proper navigation during large events. Hargis also asked how large events impact violent crime, referencing the recent security incident on the Metro platform. Sgt. McCourt replied that Metro has their own rules and enforcement policies. The security on the platform is determined by a contract with LBPD (renewed every several years), which limits PD's ability to enforce or resource situations on the platform or on the train.



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6. Staff Report [15] Minutes
- a. Clean and Safe
 - i. Homeless Outreach Coordinator Update
 - ii. Safety Ambassadors De-Escalation Training
 - (a-i.) Veronica Giron, the Homeless Outreach Coordinator for Block-by-Block updated the committee on some of her efforts to impact homelessness in DT. She informed the group that she has housed 4 individuals in recent months and the position seems to be helping. She also stated some of the needs she is encountering including a high need for pet food for unhoused individuals with animals. Sgt. McCourt recommended an organization called Project Street Vet who also provides neuter and spaying services for unhoused individuals.
 - (a-ii.) Torres provided a staff report which also included an update on the CSI team, who will be patrolling through June, when their contract will be reassessed. The Clean and Safe Team has been undergoing De-escalation training from within the Block-by-Block training program, which lasts about 4 hours and focuses on dealing with unruly, dangerous, troubled, or addicted unhoused individuals. Rev. Gallardo asked to be connected with these trainings for his church, who encounters a lot of these situations. Torres reviewed the issues discussed and mentioned that one problem lies in the blaming attitude many business owners have towards PD or the City as though their efforts to mitigate problems are inadequate, but ultimately, acknowledges everyone is doing the best they can with the resources they have.
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Public Comment (three minutes on all non-agenda items)
10. Adjournment

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, May 22, 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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