



**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

100 West Broadway, Ste 235
Long Beach, CA 90802
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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024
3:00 PM

DTLB Alliance Conference Room

100 W Broadway, Suite 235
Long Beach, CA 90802

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

Voting Absent: Vincent Severen, Paul Boyd-Batstone.

Staff: Juan Torres, Stew Stephens.

Guests: Sgt. Lisa McCourt, Steve Becotte, Joann Gallagos.

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to order 3:04 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. **ACTION: Approval of REVISED Minutes from [March 27, 2024](#) and Minutes from [April 24, 2024](#) Committee Meetings.**
VOTE: 1st: Hargis; 2nd: Smith.
MOTION: None Opposed. Krieger Abstains. Motions Pass.
4. FY23-24 Working Groups Project Update
 - a. De-Escalation Training/Response Guide
 - b. Safety Audit
 - c. Fresh Start
 - (4a.) Torres provided an overview of the De-Escalation/Response Guide progress, stating that recent meetings with the LBPD and the City Prosecutor's Office were productive in informing the development of the guide. Roberts asked about incorporating the Health Department and Community Crisis Response team would be helpful for difficult mental health emergencies and situations, as well as the addition of the Homeless Services Bureau and Behavioral Health Urgent Care. Torres confirmed these resources will be available and specified on the Response Matrix for contacting appropriate emergency services. Krieger asked how the city could amend ordinances, to which Sgt. McCourt replied that many of the issues that result in arrested individuals being released immediately are the result of state, county, and local laws which need to be addressed at higher levels of government. There is a need for advocacy and lobbying efforts at those state, county, and local levels to deal more effectively with the violent crime, theft, and vandalism that are plaguing DTLB. Krieger asked if we may be able to have a city spokesperson speak with the committee in a future session to collaborate on solutions across the public and private sectors. Smith addressed the topic by mentioning that one difficulty regarding this issue remains that if the Supreme Court determines that it is not legal to sleep or camp in public spaces (as has recently been proposed in some places), there will not be anywhere for unhoused individuals to go. Often, businesses and residents who call to have these individuals removed will just be pushing them from one street to the next, and unhoused individuals will



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often not comply, or quickly move back to the area they were just removed from, once police are gone. Another difficulty Smith mentioned was that MCS and other housing agencies often take months to get an individual housed. Gallardo mentioned that the Long Beach faith leaders of various churches and religious organizations recently met with the LBPD to discuss zoning laws, enforcement, and attempt to develop a comprehensive plan to address these issues. Roberts and Torres stated that the next steps for the Guide include working with the Marketing department to create designs and promotional materials. They are also getting feedback from Laura Reimer of the City Prosecutor's Office to ensure the Guide complies with local laws and guidelines. The overall point of this project is to help educate businesses about the available resources and which emergency services to call in specific situations. Becotte also discussed these issues from Block-By-Block's perspective, stating that attempting to enforce encamped individuals out of areas is not proving effective. There are multiple steps that need to be taken, with multiple parties involved and everyone attempting to make individual efforts. While we can't control the situation broadly, all we can do is affect the small things we do have control over. He also recommended members look into LB Continuum of Care with the city for better explanations and educational resources about the multi-faceted city-wide response to these pervasive issues.

- (4b.) The working group for the Safety Audit Walk has not been able to meet since the last committee meeting. Torres stated that some of the local issues noted by previous Safety Audit Walks have been resolved, while others remain unchanged. Smith mentioned that there are some loose cobblestones near Ocean/1st on Pine Ave. Krieger mentioned that the walkway on the SE corner of Pine and Ocean has a steep incline which makes it difficult for wheelchairs to safely cross the street. Roberts also mentioned some loose and uneven cobblestones caused by tree root systems near Shoreline Village underneath the Convention Center Boardwalk overpass and near the Bird Cage Overlook structure, along the South side of Seaside Way. Torres confirmed that the group will set up another Safety Audit Walk soon.
- (4c.) Smith provided updates on the Fresh Start Program, which has already begun receiving donations to the boxes located at businesses, residential, and public locations around DTLB (of which there are 20+ donation locations), but Smith is hoping to continue to put out more. They are getting lots of hand sanitizers, and the program is off to a good start. Roberts asked if cases of bottled water are allowed for the donations, which Smith and Torres responded affirmatively and said they would pick them up when they dropped off more donation boxes for the Pike.

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
- (5a.) Sgt. McCourt provided public safety updates from the LBPD, regarding the LB Pride Parade, which went very well with little to no problems. She also discussed that some of the juveniles from a previous violent incident at



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the Pike had been arrested and identified, but were continually released and the police were not able to create a stay-away order, though they are working with the City Prosecutor to create more lasting solutions. Sgt. McCourt also discussed how private security forces are authorized differently. Otherwise Sgt. McCourt was happy to report that there have not been any major headline incidents, reports, or violent issues in recent weeks.

6. Staff Report

a. Clean and Safe

- i. Homeless Outreach Coordinator Update
- ii. East Village
- iii. CSI
- (6ai-iii.) Torres introduced Steve & Joann who work for Block-By-Block, the latter of which will potentially become the new Clean & Safe Manager. Torres also provided updates on the Homeless Outreach Coordinator position, and stated that Veronica has been helpful to the C&S team and to the organization. They were able to set up a P.O. Box to assist unhoused individuals to receive identifying documents and information, which are crucial to allowing for wider access to Homeless services that require addresses for mailed items. Torres also discussed the new lighting that has been installed to help improve evening visibility. Several of these lighting unites were stolen or vandalized, and another issue is that the cost to install underground wiring for these units was too high. One solution might be increasing power to light poles without causing lighting issues that could potentially disturb nearby residents at night. Tree-trimming has also been identified as a suitable means to increase evening lighting in areas where overgrowth has begun to block some of the street lighting.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

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

10. Adjournment

Adjourned 4:00 PM.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, June 26, 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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