



**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 AGENDA

Wednesday, June 26, 2024
3:00 PM

DTLB Alliance Conference Room

100 W Broadway, Suite 235
Long Beach, CA 90802

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

Voting Absent: Rev. Antonio Gallardo

Staff: Juan Torres, Sara Payne, Mike McCrossin, Stew Stephens

Guests: Sgt. Lisa McCourt

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to Order 3:02 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from [May 22, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting](#).**
VOTE: 1st: Roberts; 2nd: Smith.
MOTION: None Opposed. Severen, Tan Abstain. Motion Passes.
4. FY23-24 Working Groups Project Update
 - a. De-Escalation Training/Response Guide
 - b. Safety Audit
 - c. Fresh Start
 - (4a-c.) Torres offered a review of the Workin Group projects, starting with WGI, the De-escalation Guide. Progress on this project has slowed in the past month. The Alliance will be reaching out to the City Health Department (Melissa Mohica & Diane S.) and the subcommittee will communicate further in July. WG 2 had nothing new to report from the last committee meeting. WG 3, the Fresh Start Program has had 20+ open donation boxes out at various locations (including HOAs, DT businesses, the Queen Mary, etc.) for the past month, with less being donated than in the previous year, but still making a good impact. Smith mentioned that he is still waiting on hand sanitizers from Krieger and anyone else who has additional hygiene supplies. Unlike in past years, there was no single individual or entity who donated a large supply. There was a heavier focus on HOAs this year over restaurants since people don't tend to have the hygiene items on hand when going to a restaurant, but are more likely to donate items in their buildings or near their homes. Smith proposed switching the focus to canned and dry food supplies (or to both food supplies and hygiene items) for next year's Fresh Start program, if it is to be more successful than this year.
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



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- (5a.) Sgt. McCourt provided a report from the LBPD. Lincoln Park has been cleaned up a lot as the City's efforts to partner with the Vagabond Inn have proven successful in temporarily rehousing individuals experiencing homelessness. While this is positive news on this front, there has also been an increase in juvenile activity at the skate park due to school not being in session over the summer. The East Village vandal has been identified but not apprehended. Torres added that the Public Safety Department and the Clean & Safe Team are currently trying to create a record of businesses that were affected by the string of break-ins and other vandalism or thefts that were committed by the individual(s). The Alliance is reaching out to support these affected businesses. Boyd-Batstone wanted to reflect the thanks of Hell-Bent Silver Smiths to the Alliance and PD for our quick response. 20+ car windows were smashed in the Chase Bank Lot. The Alliance will be advising businesses to install more security cameras and other protective measures. Roberts mentioned that the Safety Audit Walk Working Group could also focus on advising businesses that appear not to have strong enough security measures. Torres mentioned that while security cams can help, many perpetrators will wear masks hiding their faces with hoods or hats and may not be deterred by a camera.

6. Staff Report

- a. Clean and Safe
 - i. Homeless Outreach Coordinator Presentation
 - ii. Safety
 - iii. New BBB Manager
- (6a-i.) Torres gave a presentation created by the Homeless Outreach Coordinator, Veronica Giron, which outlined efforts of the position. Some of the daily operations of this position include connecting unhoused individuals with local organizations and other medical or mental health services. There are a lot of collaborators that work together towards helping these vulnerable populations, but nobody can force the help on individuals who won't accept it. Veronica has been using one day each week to meet with these orgs, build relationships, and develop multi-pronged strategies for outreach.
- The Block-By-Block 2023 Initial Assessment provides the results of the Homeless Count including (their concentration, locations, and reasonings for not wanting accept help or cooperate with service orgs). Giron has been successful in getting a few individuals housed and determined that setting up an Alliance P.O. Box was a helpful tool for getting individuals their proper documentation or identification. Torres was also very grateful to LBPD for their Quality of life Officers who have been so helpful. Though it may not always seem like it, these developments represent some significant progress, but efforts must continue needed. The Outreach position is also working with Long Beach Transit and LA Metro to obtain tap cards to allow people to use public transit to make appointments or even travel back to their home in LA or surrounding areas. The Lifeline Cell Phone Program has also been a huge help to these folks who have no other way of contacting their families or support networks. Despite these persistent efforts, so many individuals refuse to talk to our team members or refuse the help they offer.



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- Initial challenges to this position include limited resources, a lack of knowledge about how to impact the specific situations, rejected services, non-compliance, and the legal limitations. This has always been, and must remain a team effort between the Alliance, Block-By-Block, MCS, the City, and LBPD.
- (6a-ii.) Torres also spoke on the CSI contract, which will be ending soon. The additional security efforts did not yield improvements to investigations or enforcement mitigations. While we certainly need the extra security we need more patrols and better hourly coverage, but even the Security teams are not legally allowed to enforce anything. If unhoused, unwell, or criminal individuals don't respect the badge, they won't respect CSI.
- (6a-iii.) Torres also introduced the new Block-By-Block Clean & Safe Team Manager, Sara Payne, as well as the BBB Assistant Program Manager, Mike McCrossin. McCrossin reminded the committee that despite these difficulties in getting individuals housed, resources offered to unhoused or unwell individuals are never wasted and persistence will eventually result in some small breakthrough (speaking from personal experience).

7. Old Business

- Torres provided a brief update on the East Village Community meeting with local business owners, residents, and the LBPd, inviting committee members to join future community forums and meetings.

8. New Business

- Boyd-Batstone asked how we can mitigate illegal firework usage with the July 4th holiday coming up. Sgt. McCourt stated that very little can realistically be done unless you can see and point out an individual that was lighting them off. The same can be said for block parties. They are simply not enforceable in such large numbers on the holiday.
- Krieger spoke with the ADA coordinator for the City of LB (Jennifer Kumiyama) to address the SE corner of Pine and Ocean. Nobody wants to deal with the expense of fixing it, but we also do not want to wait 5+ years for the future Hard Rock Hotel to fix it. Krieger would appreciate the steep ramp being looked at by the next Safety Audit Walk. Additionally the Alliance and the committee members will reach out to their connections with Mary Zendejas' office for further support on the issue.

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

10. Adjournment

Adjourned 3:48 PM.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, July 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**

All meetings held by the Downtown Long Beach Alliance shall be conducted in compliance with the Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq., and its requirement that public commissions, boards, councils, and public agencies conduct business openly. E-Mail correspondence regarding agenda items can be directed to info@dlba.org. Agenda items may also be reviewed as posted in public view at the DTLB Alliance offices or at City Hall. If special accommodation is desired pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, please make your request by phone to (562) 436-4259, by noon the day prior to the meeting.