



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

**Public Safety Committee
Members:**

Denise Carter, Chair

Pat Welch, Vice Chair

Teresa Calloway

Sheila Gibbons

Jon Timberlake

Janice Friend

Denise Maldonado

Nick Padula

Todd Lemmis

DLBA Staff:

Broc Coward, COO

Steve Be Cotte, Community
Outreach Manager

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020
4:30 pm

Voting Present: Denise Carter, Pat Welch, Sheila Gibbons, Janice Friend, Nick Padula, Jon Timberlake

Voting Absent: Teresa Calloway, Denise Maldonado, Todd Lemmis

DLBA Staff: Broc Coward, Monica Morrill, Steve Be Cotte

Guests: Eric Matusak – LBPD South Division, James Smigla – LBPD Marine Patrol, Dean Vescera – Prosecutor’s Office

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Self-Introductions – Denise Carter, Chair
Meeting called to order at 4:36 PM. [Meeting Presentation.](#)
2. **Action: Approve minutes from [August 26, 2020 Meeting.](#)**
Motion: 1st: Welch, 2nd: Padula.
Vote: Gibbons abstains. Timberlake not present for voting. Motion carries.
3. Public Safety Partners Report
 - a. Department of Health and Human Services – Not present for update.
 - b. Long Beach City Prosecutor – Dean Vescera
 - During the coronavirus crisis, California state courts are setting bail to zero in misdemeanor and low-level felony cases due to the threat of spreading the disease in close proximity. This new bail reform aims to prevent those that may not have the resources to post bail in contracting COVID-19 while awaiting trial.
 - Under the new Bail Reform, all non-violent crimes and misdemeanors will automatically start off at \$0 bail. Each case will be heard before a judge and judge will determine if bail is needed even with the “zero bail” policy. Judge will look at offenders with open felonies, failures to appear, bench warrants, probation violations, and offenders they deem at risk of not coming back to court as well as those at risk of coming back as repeat offenders and decide if bail should be set..
 - Friend asked if an individual were picked up for being homeless, would they have a high bail set? Vescera answered those picked up for being homeless will not be prosecuted or have a bail set. His goal is to clean up the community and offer alternative solutions. For example, offering mental health services or a bed at a recovery center.
 - Carter expressed concern that bail reform is not a great use of tax resources and asked Vescera to elaborate more on plea bargaining. Vescera explained that city prosecutors were losing the ability to negotiate on serious crimes because instead of taking plea bargains that offer community service instead of jail time(ex. Graffiti removal for tagging), offenders were pleading guilty, taking the longer sentences, and getting released quickly because of the risk of COVID-19.
 - Carter expressed appreciation for Vescera’s work stating that it was important for the community to offer different perspectives even if they were not agreed upon. It is important to maintain an open discourse.
 - c. Long Beach Police Department – Matusak & Smigla
 - Sgt Matusak discussed LBPD’s Looting Task Force and their investigation of vandalism during the civil unrest using various sources of video to identify suspects and vehicles. Thus far, LBPD had made 35 arrests associated with vandalism on May 31, 2020.
 - Sergeant Smigla discussed the role of LBPD’s Marine Patrol along Long Beach’s coast while focusing on marinas, docks and live aboard vessels.



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4. Staff Report – Broc Coward- presented slide 5
 - a. CARES Act Funding
 - \$50,000 spent in Marketing and Promotions so far.
 - Cleaning and Sanitation services qualify for reimbursement, with this DLBA has been able to extend services outside of their normal routes and responsibilities to sanitize and deploy additional Safety Ambassadors in support of businesses reopening as part of the Open Streets program.
 - Discuss with city staff what draft looks like and present it at next month's meeting as well as activities that funding could be used for.
 - Welch asked if the money was already spent and if draft budget included the \$230,000. Coward answered money could be spent on planned expenditures. and the Board had approved the FY20-21 budget. Welch asked if the CARES Act funding was over and above the approved budget. Coward confirmed the funding was in addition to the approved FY20-21 budget. Coward explained that planned activities for CARES Act funding will be shared with the committee once they are confirmed.
 5. Chairperson Report – Carter
 - a. FY 20/21 Public Safety Committee Date & Time - Carter presented slide 8
 - Meetings will remain on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 4:30 pm.
 - Lemmis and Calloway will not be returning, Coward explained interview process and what is to be expected in the coming weeks.
 - b. Review of Working Group Activities
 1. WG1: Downtown Safety Audit - Carter presented slide 9
 - Lighting- remaining routes assigned to committee members to complete.
 2. WG2: Quality of Life Education Series- Carter presented slides 10-11
 - Coward mentioned idea of using live video as group tours to be able to reach members of the community. Can turn into new vehicle for sharing due to COVID.
 - Carter stated that the key goal is educating the stakeholders and understanding what is being done in respect to public safety in Downtown Long Beach.
 3. WG3: Helping Hands and Partnerships- Carter presented slide 12.
 - Coward expressed need to develop outreach and determine how to conduct the donation campaign safely under COVID-19 restrictions.
 - Need more facts so pieces are in place and we can move forward, for example what size towels? Is it only bath towels or do we ask for wash cloths as well? Good base line to start with.
6. Public Comment (Three minutes on all non-agenda items)
 7. Old Business
 8. New Business
 9. Adjournment
- Meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm

**Next Public Safety Committee Meeting
TENTATIVE DATE AND TIME
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
4:30 PM**

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

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