



**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

Sara Payne
Block-By-Block Operations
Manager

Stewart Stephens
Programming Assistant

James Ahumada
Sr. Vice President & Deputy
CEO

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024
3:00 PM

DTLB Alliance Conference Room

100 W Broadway, Suite 235
Long Beach, CA 90802

Voting Present: Cheryl Roberts (Chair), Rev. Antonio Gallardo (V. Chair), Robb Smith, Terri Krieger, Paul Boyd-Batstone, Paul Hargis.

Voting Absent: Vincent Severen, Teri Tan.

Staff: Juan Torres, Sara Payne (Block-By-Block Clean & Safe Team), Stewart Stephens.

Guests: Laura Reimer, Sgt. Lisa McCourt.

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to order 3:05 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from [June 26, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting](#).**
VOTE: 1st: Boyd-Batstone; 2nd: Smith
MOTION: 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
 - (4a.) Updates were given on the working group projects starting with the De-Escalation Training/Response Guide. A response matrix is still in progress, and the next step is to connect with Melissa Mojica from the City. Conversations with Laura Reimer from the City Prosecutor's office and Sgt. Lisa McCourt were productive in informing the development of the resources in the Response Guide.
 - (4b.) In regard to the Safety Walk Audit working group, a Google Sheet is being used to log the various safety issues noticed on walk audits. In addition to this reporting log, there is also information being logged in the GoLB app. Some items are being logged in both places, and the working group is considering how duplicate information can be consolidated. Many of these duplicate issues are over-complicating the process and proving harder to resolve. Boyd-Batstone mentioned that filling out the date and time of the entries allow us to better track safety issues in conjunction with GoLB. Terri went to the Disability Commission to speak on the unsafe sidewalk ramp on the SE corner of Pine and Ocean. In addition to this issue with the ramp, there are also several large holes in the walkway near Pine. Reimer mentioned that these dangerous ADA issues would cause a huge liability to the city if someone were injured. She recommends the group speak directly to the city attorney and the office of Mary Zendejas to advocate for the repair of this unsafe corner, as a potential liability to the city.
 - (4c.) Updates were provided on the Fresh Start Program. The working group is in the process of picking up the donation boxes around town and still have a few coming in. The group will begin counting and sorting the donation items.



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Normally, the Alliance delivers the donated items to various organizations around Long Beach and Los Angeles (over 8 orgs), distributing items evenly across the board. We will be marketing these efforts, so our MarComm team will assist in taking photos and posting the efforts of the working group.

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 updates from the LBPD on recent collaborations between the department and the Vagabond Inn, which may result in a 1-year contract, temporarily housing individuals in need of a place to sleep. PD is doing weekly outreach (on Wednesday evenings) with unhoused individuals in Lincoln Park. While showing slow progress, these efforts have helped mitigate many of the problems plaguing the Lincoln Park and downtown public space in general.
 - (5d.) Reimer provided updates from the City Prosecutor's office. After the new Supreme Court decision on homeless encampment removal, there have been many meetings amongst various government agencies to collaborate on the issue. This will continue to need more policy action from the city council, the Mayor's office, and other policy agencies. The city departments want to keep their efforts focused on service-first orientation, rather than trying to arrest their way out of a homeless crisis (the issue requires a delicate approach). One question that remains for city departments is how will they take enforcement action when unhoused or unwell individuals refuse service? The Supreme Court decision has allowed police officers to detain individuals, perform searches, and check for warrants on dangerous or criminal cases, which has enabled mitigating enforcement. Reimer also addressed the recent East Village vandal who may or may not be in custody (they are continuing to search for evidence to bring the criminals to justice).

6. Staff Report

- a. Clean and Safe
 - i. BBB Update – Sara Payne
 - ii. Safety
- (6ai-ii.) Torres provided updates about the new hires to the Block-By-Block Clean & Safe Team, which have resulted in a lot of shadowing and on-the-job training efforts. Payne expressed gratitude to everyone for their kindness, patience, and support in the early months of her employment as the Clean & Safe Operations Manager. She has spent much of the first month getting to know her staff, the position, and the work within the district. Boyd-Batstone acknowledged the Clean & Safe Team, citing the positive interactions community and committee members have had with them: they are always polite, professional, and helpful, which is widely appreciated. Torres also informed the committee that they are currently looking to fill the Homeless Outreach Coordinator position vacated by Vero Giron. Payne has been filling in to some degree, which has helped her acclimate to the needs of the Operations team and the future coordinator position.



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7. Old Business
 - Torres provided a report from the Alliance on the recent break-ins and vandalism in East Village, which have resulted in greater efforts to convince people to make proper police reports, so that law enforcement can engage in comprehensive investigations and bring the criminals to justice; without proper reporting (and claiming victimhood status), enforcement efforts are severely hindered.
 - The CSI team will no longer be contracted to patrol the Downtown area, and it has been determined that this was not a successful pilot program.
 - The Pressure washing team has provided constant efforts to improve the quality and cleanliness of Downtown sidewalks, often to no avail (as is the case near the 711 on Pine/Broadway).
 - Torres also provided an invitation for those interested in returning to the committee to reach out to discuss the FY24-25 committee participation. He also invited everyone to send recommendations for members of the public who may be interested in joining.
8. New Business
 - Krieger mentioned that there are many paint marks on the city sidewalks and they need to be addressed.
 - Roberts informed the committee that due to organizational changes, she will be stepping down from her position at the Pike Site Centers and as chair of the committee, but will remain with us through the current fiscal year.
 - Committee members are invited to join and participate in the upcoming Disability Pride event taking place at Harvey Milk Park.
9. Public Comment (three minutes on all non-agenda items)
10. Adjournment
Adjourned at 3:54 PM.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, August 28, 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.