



**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, August 28, 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, Paul Hargis, Teri Tan.

**Voting Absent:** Vincent Severen, Terri Kreiger, Paul Boyd-Batstone.

**Staff:** Juan Torres, Sara Payne, Stewart Stephens.

**Guests:** Laura Reimer, Sgt. Lisa McCourt, Patrol Resource Officer Jeff Garcia, Mark Jensen.

1. Call to Order – Cheryl Roberts, Chair  
[Meeting Presentation](#). Called to order 3:06 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes from [July 24, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting](#).**  
**MOTION: 1<sup>st</sup>: Gallardo; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hargis.**  
**VOTE: 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.) The FY23-24 working group projects were reviewed, beginning with Group I: the De-escalation Training/Response Guide. Roberts discussed the recent meeting had with Melissa Mohica of the Homeless Services Bureau, which resulted in lots of pertinent information and contact referrals being added to the Guide. Torres will approve the document with the full committee, then show it to the Alliance executive team to be approved. Once all the approvals have been made, the document will be reviewed by the Marketing Department to make the final product more aesthetically appealing and ready for the public.
  - (4b.) There were not many updates to report on the WG2 project, the Safety Walk Audit, due to Boyd-Batstone being gone for several weeks. Torres reported that there were some small improvements made to a few walking hazards on Pine between Ocean Blvd. and 1<sup>st</sup> St. with some asphalt repairs on the potholes there. Torres also stated that he will soon be working with Stephanie G. of the Placemaking Department to perform a safety walk audit focused on assessing evening lighting (possibly as soon as 9/4).
  - (4c.) Smith provided updates on the WG3 project, the Fresh Start Program. Smith stated that over the course of the collection period, 1,427 total items were donated. This number was 750 less than the previous year, but Torres reminded the group that these donations are still going to be very valuable to local orgs and missions. The next step will be to divide everything evenly and distribute amongst the various orgs who work to ensure donated items are given to those in need. Roberts discussed the success of donations from hotels this year and suggested the group focus on hotel donations in future years. This strategy resulted in a lot of travel-size shampoos and room amenities being



## 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

donated, which are good because they can easily be distributed in smaller portions. Smith would like to expand this program in future years to include canned and dry food goods and hopes to review how the various collection boxes performed this year to inform the placement strategies for years to come. Tan recommended we run this program twice per year in the future to increase its effectiveness, as more people tend to make larger donations during the holiday season. Reimer recommended making collection boxes more available in grocery stores and pharmacies so people can plan to buy a few extra items while shopping.

### 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 spoke regarding the recent Grant's Pass Decision, stating that police now have the power to apprehend or disrupt public camping by unhoused individuals in public spaces. Even so, the LBPD does not want to cite or arrest every camping individual. They will use discretion to align with the city's direction on dealing with the homeless population. Though these changes will help our enforcement officers, it still will not allow for anything more than a book and release, which means that the camping individuals and their property are taken to PD and a case file made with a magistrate who determines how to proceed. The police cannot fine someone as that is under the jurisdiction of the City Prosecutor's office. Garcia also mentioned that a majority of officers are responding to calls only, beyond specific outreach times. This is because our officers are often too busy to deal with lower priority homeless issues. The group was informed that while 30 new police officers just graduated from the academy and should be joining the force, a subsequent probationary period resulted in only 10 of those becoming patrolling officers in the immediate timeframe. To help bolster their staffing shortages, some retirees are rejoining the force for indoor case management and detective work. The force is also offering further incentives, though it may be a few years before these issues with staffing are fully resolved. Sgt. McCourt and Officer Garcia discussed some of the major issues PD has been having with juveniles (many not from LB, or coming from elsewhere) causing problems in the DT area: primarily theft, vandalism, broken windows, and some violent crime. Some of the perpetrators have come down from Inglewood, Watts, and Compton on the Metro transit line. On another note, Payne discussed how in a recent incident, she and the Clean and Safe team members served as the witnesses and called and waited for police, but nothing was done when they arrived. Sgt. McCourt advised that when PD is called, the Clean and Safe team members (or anyone calling) should tell them that they are serving as the victim or witness and they would like to press charges and to be contacted (both very important to ensure full follow-through from PD). The exact verbiage matters as well. Payne also asked if the Clean and Safe team members should be flagging officers down, which officers Garcia and McCourt enthusiastically replied yes to, adding that the officers should always be informed about what is known about the individuals, and it should never be assumed that officers are aware of every individual. Payne also asked when the safest moment is to communicate with officers, which McCourt



## 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

and Garcia replied to by saying that people making the call must be vocal and adamant about being contacted by the patrol officers when they arrive on the scene.

- (5d.) Reimer discussed the recent release of a mental health case (David Tang), who has been arrested several times on misdemeanor charges for nudity at the 711 on Pine and Broadway. The police department cannot profile individuals but can require people to clothe themselves when nude in public. Reimer also discussed that when people are released, they may get a warning or warrant but will rarely show up to their court hearings. Reimer would like to do some more trainings with the PD for officers to better utilize the apps that report on dangerous criminals and maintain statuses on stay-away orders, which are a primary tool for detaining or stopping especially troublesome individuals. Reimer also discussed that at a recent community meeting, Mary Zendejas expressed displeasure at how so much of the focus has been on homeless and unwell individuals and has forgotten about the constituents, public citizenry, and first responders who are most negatively affected. Based on what she has seen thus far, Reimer does not predict the Supreme Court decision will change much. Reimer also recommended that Clean and Safe Team members request the police report numbers and call numbers, because it helps the City Prosecutor's Office.

### 6. Staff Report

#### a. Clean and Safe

- i. BBB Update – Sara Payne
- ii. Outreach Coordinator

- (6a-i.) Payne offered appreciation for the patience given to new Clean and Safe Team members and thanked several committee members for giving C&S Team members a place to cool off during the recent heat waves. Reimer assured Payne that she will speak to the city to ensure more locations are made available to Clean & Safe Team members.
- (6a-ii.) Torres and Payne updated the group about the new hire for the Homeless Outreach Coordinator position and mentioned that they will begin training and building relationships soon. Payne also mentioned that they are currently trying to build a known person's list for dangerous/difficult individuals actively seeking services and take note of homeless hot spots around Downtown. Torres stated that the team is currently prepping for the Summer on Pine Street closure, to which everyone is invited to participate in the many activations which will take place there.

### 7. Old Business

### 8. New Business

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

- Mark Jensen sat in on the committee meeting, because he is interested in joining the committee for the FY24-25. He is a local property manager and owner and would like to assist the community in any way he can.

### 10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:08 PM.



**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

100 West Broadway, Ste 235  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
T: 562.436.4259

**NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:**

**Wednesday, September 25, 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](mailto: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.