



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

11 AM

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Meeting ID: 879 3508 9942

Passcode: 467434

Voting Present: Alan Pullman, Debra Fixen, Alan Burks, Todd Lemmis, Graham Gill, Sam Pierzina, Silvano Merlo, Sheva Hosseinzadeh, Bob Kelton, Allison Kripp, Rhonda Love, Loara Cadavona, Denise Carter, John Keisler, Pat Welch, Liz Simmons

Voting Absent: Laurie Gray, Mike Gold, Ryan Altoon

Non-Voting Present: Jeremy Harris, Patty Wirth, Cameron Andrews, Alishia Holmes-Watson, Don Darnauer

Non-Voting Absent: Griselda Suarez, Mohammad Hassanpour, Scott Apel, Diane Arnold, Councilmember Mary Zendejas

Guests: Nigel Lifsey, Kristine Hammond, Ryan La Rosa, Blair Cohn

DLBA Staff: Kraig Kojian, Broc Coward, Austin Metoyer, Steve Be Cotte, Mo Mills, Laruen Mayne, Kelsey Mader, Stephanie Gonzalez, Justine Nevarez

I. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS** – Alan Pullman, Chair

Meeting called to order at 11:04 AM.

- Kojian honored the memory of Mark Bixby, former DLBA Board member, who tragically passed in a plane crash 10 years ago.

2. **PRESENTATION: Long Beach Recovery Act** – Mayor Robert Garcia

- Mayor Garcia thanked the Board and its committees for their willingness to join him to review the Long Beach Recovery Act. He reflected on the toll the pandemic has taken on the economy, and the lives lost because of it.
- Upon the election of the Biden administration, Mayor Garcia prepared Long Beach to receive a massive relief/stimulus package. The mayors with a good relationship with the White House participated in meetings to discuss what the American Rescue Plan would look like from the cities' perspectives.
- Long Beach put together a \$200 million plan, mostly from the Federal Government but some from the County of Los Angeles, with a focus on economic and overall city recovery.
- The Long Beach Recovery Act has three components:
 1. **Economic Recovery**
 - Over \$50 million which focuses on supporting small businesses, workers, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and economic inclusion.
 - \$5 million will be invested into a Clean Long Beach initiative which will double the number of clean teams currently in the field.
 - Additional money will be dedicated to economic empowerment zones. The goal is to reach areas of the City that may not have the access to resources available to them.
 2. **Creating a Healthy and Safe Community**
 - Approximately \$72 million. These funds will create health and equity programs, including mental health programs.
 - \$7 million is being allocated for basic needs such as food security and childcare.

- Long Beach is on the verge of a massive eviction crisis which demands immediate assistance for tenants and landlords. An additional \$12 million is being invested to address those already experiencing homelessness.
- Long Beach will dedicate \$4 million towards a violence prevention program. With the lack of regular activity in public spaces, violence and crime across the country has increased drastically, including in Long Beach.

3. Securing the City's Future

- At the beginning of the crisis, there were full reserves on-hand for emergencies. In the last year Long Beach used all \$48 million in reserves. Mayor Garcia is committed to replenishing this money to ensure Long Beach is prepared for another disaster.
- The remaining furloughs that were put in place to save resources for the City will also be eliminated.
- The Long Beach Recovery Act is going before City Council tonight.
- Kojian thanked the Mayor for the presentation, elaborating on the work the DLBA Board participated in as mentioned by Garcia.
- Pullman shared his appreciation for the money specifically allocated for the Business Improvement Districts.
- Kristine Hammond with Zaferia Business Association asked about mental health care and funding available to mental health providers. Mayor Garcia answered that there is \$1 million in the Long Beach Recovery Act for mental health providers and mental health programs. In addition to these funds, these businesses can apply for grants as well.
- Carter inquired about the looming eviction crisis. asking for more detail. Mayor Garcia shared that \$30 million is being dedicated to help with rent relief. This will also help landlords pay their mortgages. The Mayor added that other factors contribute to one's ability to pay rent such as food and childcare. By including financial support for these basic needs, the pressure to choose between these essentials and paying rent will be eliminated.
- Darnauer asked if there is anything being done to help seniors with technology literacy. Mayor Garcia answered that \$2 million is set aside to address the digital divide which includes senior citizens.
- Welch asked if Long Beach is looking at safe parking or safe tenting ideas such as those being investigated in San Pedro. Garcia says yes, Long Beach already has a couple safe parking pilots. He hopes to dramatically increase shelter beds and transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness, however, prefers to remove all tents from the City when possible stating "No one should have to live in a tent".
- Lifsey requested Mayor Garcia share more on the universal basic income program. The Mayor shared that an Economic Equity Officer is to be hired by John Keisler and that Long Beach is putting aside another couple million dollars that will go into income programs.

3. OLD BUSINESS

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (three minutes on all non-agenda items)

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

April 21, 2021

8AM

Location: ZOOM

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

All meetings held by the Downtown Long Beach Alliance shall be conducted in compliance with the Brown Act, California Government Section 54950 et s, and its requirement that public commissions, boards, councils, and public agencies conduct business openly.

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