



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

July 20, 2021

Long Beach City Council  
Civic Center Plaza  
411 West Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: Agenda Item #27; Long Beach Safety Recovery Plan**

Dear Mayor Garcia and Honorable City Council Members,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) Board of Directors and enter into the public record for the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021, its support of the proposed Long Beach Safety Recovery Plan (Plan).

The proposed Plan includes programming impacting the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), and DLBA believes the need to provide both support and further policy feedback. DLBA is in support of the Plan's one-time investments in entertainment and business districts, calls for service, neighborhood walks, and neighborhood safe streets programs. Proper implementation of these programs would greatly enhance public safety in the Downtown, particularly in areas experiencing persistent problems with crime and quality of life.

According to DLBA's 2021 Public Safety Survey, the overall perception of safety in Downtown has decreased over the past year. Reduced social and economic activity in the area created a more negative perception of health and safety, aggravating existing challenges such as illegal dumping, property crime, and homelessness. However, collection of monthly crime data within the BID reveals that overall crime has been trending downward since 2015. Increased deployment of neighborhood resources and calls for service would help to maintain the downward trend in crime while also bolstering the perception of safety in the BID.

Although DLBA supports the initial investments of the Plan affecting Downtown, there is still a need to better allocate program funding. Safety programs involving Long Beach Police Department account for over 90% of the total budget, whereas investments in community violence prevention receives less than \$500,000 in total funding.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our input regarding the proposed Long Beach Safety Recovery Plan, and we encourage the City Council to continue discussion on best practices for the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kraig Kojian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kraig Kojian  
President & CEO

cc: DLBA Board of Directors  
DLBA Public Safety Committee