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## **DLBA Takes Proactive Measures to Address Recent Outbreak of Vandalism in Downtown**

**(LONG BEACH, CA – February 10, 2022)** The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) today announced it has implemented several initiatives to support the community in response to recent incidents of vandalism. The new effort includes \$30,000 in Storefront Recovery Grants to provide financial relief to impacted small businesses.

In addition to the grant program, DLBA is taking the following actions to support local businesses and residents:

- Adding extra Safety Ambassadors to routes, especially during evening hours.
- Collaborating with LBPd to inform businesses and residents on how to avoid being targets of crime and how to improve chances of apprehending a suspect once a crime is committed.
- Coordinating with public and private security and property management firms as another layer of deterrence and reporting of suspicious activities.
- Sharing an enhanced Quality of Life Decision Guide with businesses, residents and property owners to provide guidance on who to call for various concerns in the public right of way.
- Promoting the availability of free [DLBA Safety Escorts](#) to assist workers, residents, visitors, and customers in the business district seven days a week, by calling (562) 244-1365.

Reflecting on the proactive steps as well as efforts by the Long Beach Police Department to address recent break-ins and vandalism that appear to be unrelated, DLBA COO Broc Coward, said, “We’re grateful for the additional deployment of officers and business outreach being performed by LBPd. We believe DLBA’s initiatives complement those efforts and make our Downtown safer for businesses and residents to enjoy.”

Through the Storefront Recovery Grant, eligible small business owners can be reimbursed up to \$1,500 to offset costs from destruction or damage of storefronts. The grant helps address the total cost incurred for owners to repair physical damages – not including loss of stolen goods or property – and is available on a first come, first-serve basis, based on fund availability. Businesses can apply for the grant through the DLBA website [here](#).

“Many businesses are already operating on razor-thin margins as they manage through the ongoing challenges brought on by COVID-19. As we learned from a similar recovery grant program in 2020, this type of financial assistance really makes a difference,” said Austin Metoyer, DLBA Economic Development and Policy Manager.

In June 2020, DLBA jumpstarted recovery efforts by working with the business community to provide micro-grants to small businesses in Downtown that suffered theft and extensive damages during the night of unrest on May 31, 2020. During that time, the DLBA Storefront Recovery Grant program raised \$40,000 which included major donations by Waterford Property Company, Panattoni Development Company and Zwift. Businesses interested in donating to the current program can send an email to [austinm@dlba.org](mailto:austinm@dlba.org).

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**About DLBA:** DLBA is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to cultivate, preserve and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous Downtown for all. By balancing the interests of the residents, as well as businesses, the DLBA creates tangible progress by way of vested interest and solidified partnerships across local, municipal, and commercial lines. For additional information, visit [www.downtownlongbeach.org](http://www.downtownlongbeach.org), or follow on Facebook [@downtownlongbeach](#), and on Twitter and Instagram [@DLBA](#).