



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

**Public Safety Committee  
Members:**

Denise Carter, Chair

Pat Welch, Vice Chair

Sheila Gibbons

Jon Timberlake

Janice Friend

Denise Maldonado

Nick Padula

Terrence Krieger

**DLBA Staff:**

Broc Coward, COO

Steve Be Cotte, Community  
Outreach Manager

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, December 17, 2020  
4:30 pm

**Voting Present:** Denise Carter, Pat Welch, Sheila Gibbons, Jon Timberlake, Janice Friend, Denise Maldonado, Nick Padula

**Staff:** Broc Coward, Steve Be Cotte, Erica Beighley

**Guests:** Sarah Green- Deputy City Attorney

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Self-Introductions – Denise Carter, Chair  
Meeting called to order at 4:38 pm. [Meeting Presentation](#).
2. **Action: Approve minutes from [November 18, 2020 Meeting](#). 1<sup>st</sup>: Welch. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gibbons. No Abstentions. Motion Carries.**
3. Public Safety Education Series Guest Speaker –Sarah Green, Deputy City Attorney, Long Beach City Attorney. Presented slides 4-10.
  - Green introduced herself as formerly being with the Army JAG advising units on all matters that were legal, however since 2017 she has worked with the City Attorney's Office as a Deputy City Attorney.
  - Carter asked how code enforcement comes into play with homelessness. Green answered code enforcement covers more private property, the Police Department covers public property. When resolving encampment issues Green recommended figuring out who the manager or property owner is to resolve the problem.
  - Coward asked what Green is most called in to help navigate when it crosses over to LA County, like the river? Green responded she gets a lot of questions regarding jurisdiction issues. In these situation's she suggested figuring out who owns the property encampment is on. Reach out to those owners and might need to have to coordinated clean up, important to hold everyone accountable in maintaining own property.
  - Be Cotte brought up debris associated with people that are homeless, it starts off small and can become very big blocking paths and access to sidewalks, and asked what is the actual code being violated that brings on green tags? Green responded that it is not a city municipal code being broken, the issue is ADA related. If people are not able to access and use the sidewalk then the City faces liability for that.
  - Welch mentioned seeing homeless encampments around Rainbow Lagoon, Marina Green and on the beach and inquired about who is in charge with code enforcement? Green informed Committee that with beaches and parks there is an additional layer of enforcing the 10 PM curfew. No one is allowed at the parks or beaches after curfew no matter what your status. Beaches would be the City of Long Beach, Rainbow Lagoon would be Parks Department, and parks could be Parks Department or Public Works Clean Team. It comes down to who can do it? Who is willing to do it? And where does the money come from to do the clean-up? Depending on where the area is Tideland Funds, which are used for the maintenance and development of the marinas, Queen Mary and adjacent properties, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and Rainbow Harbor Area, could also assist with covering the expense of the cleanup.
  - Krieger voiced his concerns regarding ADA access by the Civic Center construction zone having closed off half of a long block on Ocean Blvd, from Pacific to Chestnut. Only one side is accessible, lots of construction and other activities blocking the sidewalk. Who enforces ADA issues against the City of Long Beach? Green answered unfortunately there is no one that enforces issue. Circumstances like that you would sue the city saying they are violating ADA. Advised to reach out to ADA Coordinator's office before taking that route. Be Cotte added the contact information for Heather Van Wijk, the Citywide Accessibility Coordinator for the city.
    - Direct Line: (562) 570-6257
    - TTY: (562) 570-2779
    - Fax: (562) 570-6012
    - Email: [Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov](mailto:Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov)
  - Coward asked Green if there are any updates on court cases involving homelessness and camping on sidewalks? Green responded that Martin V Boise, a court case last



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year that determined two city ordinances violated the Eighth Amendment as it inflicted criminal sanctions against homeless individuals for sleeping outdoors, on public property, when no alternative shelter was available, has resulted in some changes. Officers must offer shelter to individuals, from here they can accept or decline. If they accept you can coordinate shelter. This is the only method to enforce. The City of Long Beach does not have enough shelter beds for entire homeless population and it would be enforced based on individual case.

#### 4. Public Safety Partners Report

- a. Department of Health and Human Services
- b. Long Beach City Prosecutor
- c. Long Beach Police Department
  - Sargeant Matusak shared 2020 was a very challenging year as a department. They started off the year with a few incidents where officers were shot at, which is very rare. From there the pandemic started and was followed by civil unrest in May, then started preparing for upcoming elections in November.
  - Matusak shared crime statistics informing Committee over all murder, assault with deadly weapons, commercial, garage, auto burglaries are up across the city. People are taking advantage of others leaving things in their cars. Department is doing their best to try to combat this and have moved resources around. Department also has Directed Enforcement Team going out trying to find firearms from people that should not have them, finding a lot of “ghost” guns which are guns that do not have the serial number engraved.
  - Matusak added that a large amount of officers as well as support staff had unfortunately come down with COVID and they are doing their best to move resources around to ensure they have enough officers in the field. They are working through challenges, with everyone’s support trying to drive down those statistics for next year.
  - Gibbons asked Matusak if he knew what was going on around the Drake Park area? She mentioned there had been lot of shootings lately. Is it gang activity or random violence? Matusak answered that it is gang related, there has been a Patrol Resource Officer posted there and the Directed Enforcement Team has been working there a lot as well. He shared additional surveillance cameras were installed in and around the park to help solve crime. Gang detectives are certainly on top of it working very closely to make arrests. Gang and gang crime is a web of criminal activity and may have multiple gangs working together.
  - Coward asked Matusak to clarify if he mentioned the Commander will be stepping down? Matusak replied Liberman is retiring and his last day will be tomorrow. There will be an internal selection process to appoint a new one and have not yet announced who will be interim Commander.

#### 5. Staff Report – Broc Coward. Presented slides 12-16

##### a. Clean and Safe Team Activities

- Be Cotte explained slide 13, the reason 3<sup>rd</sup> and Linden encampment became a nuisance was because it has been there for so long and there is no tenant at the building. Coward further clarified that the area was green tagged alerting those staying there that the area would have City Officials show up and cleared out the space. DLBA’s Clean and Safe Team came in and cleared out debris as well as had their pressure washers come in and clean.
- Coward explained slide 14, the street pole was tagged on Pine and Ocean Blvd during civil unrest. The city was hoping to get artist back to recreate mural that was tagged, they wanted something new instead of restoring it, however artist is unavailable touring outside of the country. The Clean and Safe Team came in and cleaned it up creating a blank canvas for the artist ready for whenever they are available.
- Coward informed Committee that the Safe and Clean Team had been contracted by the City of Long Beach to maintain planters on 1<sup>st</sup> Street between Pacific and Long Beach Blvd. This is an extra contract that is not part of the PBID. The Clean and Safe Team used to subcontract this out but the subcontractor was hit pretty hard by the pandemic and informed DLBA they were getting out of the business. Be Cotte suggested the Clean and Safe Team could step in and have it be their landscape project resulting in having them take over that contract adding the Loop as well.
- Maldonado inquired about pressure washing schedule for downtown. Coward let her know schedule is on our website and map is provided to guarantee location and asked Be Cotte to follow



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

- up with her regarding this issue. Be Cotte sent link, <https://downtownlongbeach.org/clean-safe/downtown-clean-team-pressure-washing/>, and agreed to follow up with concern.
6. Chairperson Report – Carter- Presented slides 17-27.
- a. Update on Public Safety Committee Vacancies
    - Carter informed Committee that currently there is one move vacancy and currently more interviews are scheduled to fill vacancy.
  - b. Review of Committee Goal Strategies and Milestones
    - i. Helping Hands
      - Carter encouraged rest of Committee to view Helping Hands google sheet that was sent out.
      - Gibbons reported to Committee that the Multi Service Center would take anything that the Committee is able to give them. She was unable to reach someone at St. Luke's but reached out to US Vets and learned that they do offer showers, individuals are welcomed to take a shower and will be offered placement in housing and with any other service that they need. The Long Beach Rescue Mission does not offer showers however they do hand out hygiene kits and are currently asking for donations that would buy a kit for individuals.
      - Gibbons inquired regarding receiving cash donations. Coward informed Committee DLBA is not able to offer tax deduction incentive for donations since we are a C6 not a C3. Welch informed Coward that the Downtown Residential Council is a C3 and would happily accept donations on DLBA's behalf. They have a template in place and would send people reply letters thanking them with specific amount and what donation was used for.
      - Friend brought up Bed Bath and Beyond is closing and might be worth our time to contact and see if they would be willing to donate. Carter agreed it was a good idea. Gibbons brought up obstacle of having to store supplies and Maldonado offered Confidential Coffee as storage space. Coward advised Gibbons to inventory supplies and making someone responsible for sending out Thank You's to those that have contributed.
      - Carter asked Coward to provide Committee with list of area hotels that could be contacted and asked to donate towels to campaign. Coward answered he would provide the list but would want to know who the person would be making the calls.
    - ii. Go Long Beach App
      - Coward expressed need to finalize and identify specific message and resources that are needed for App. He proposed question of having someone assigned in the Committee to find out if city might already have something in place that can be used on DLBA's social media platform since outreach would mainly be electronic with current Safer at Home Orders.
      - Carter suggested to create outline like the one in place for Helping Hands Working Group identifying 3 benefits of using the app. Coward suggested having something in the app to allow feedback and could be made to be part of the message and benefits too. City of Long Beach is looking for honest feedback to improve.
    - iii. Mystery Shopper Program
      - Timberlake proposed having a grading scale, which would be a better indicator for feedback and suggested having hyperlink available on the phone. Coward added it would be best to have someone be able to pull it up on their phone instead of walking around with a clipboard. It would be convenient to have all the data stored and created to be able to display to the group.
      - Coward stressed Be Cotte should make sure there is a training guide in place with power point presentation since it is important to train mystery shoppers to feel confident with information that was presented. Timberlake shared that there are different forms for guides and Clean and Safe Team, Coward asked Be Cotte to look over forms to make sure nothing has been overlooked.
      - Carter inquired process for scheduling people to go out and perform assessments, Be Cotte shared it is pretty easy to see someone out there since each sector has an assigned person. Welch raised concerns about potentially hitting the same place too many times and other places not enough. He brought up concern of addressing the location a certain number of times and having assessments logged.
      - Coward wanted to note that Committee should be very clear about procedures and training heading into the next meeting. He wanted to make sure Committee had resources to be able to remotely train people and shared Timberlake would be sharing on screen what training will be done, from there recruitment will start in February. Coward noted ideally they would



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
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assign committee members and start training and evaluation to work out any hiccups that might arise before teaming with neighborhood leaders.

7. Public Comment (Three minutes on all non-agenda items)
    - Coward shared DLBA was awarded contract for LB Transit restrooms. DLBA was picked as final two and was granted the 3 year contract with 2 extra years optional. All the profit that will be made will go directly back into the PBID.
  8. Old Business
  9. New Business
  10. Adjournment
- Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

**Next Public Safety Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, January 27, 2021  
4:30 PM**

***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 Code Section 54950 et seq., and its requirement that public commissions, boards, councils, and public agencies conduct business openly. The agenda and supporting documents are available on the Internet at <http://downtownlongbeach.org>. 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 DLBA 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.

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