



**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

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
4:30 pm

Voting Present: Denise Carter; Pat Welch; Jon Timberlake; Janice Friend; Nick Padula; Terrence Krieger

Voting Absent: Sheila Gibbons; Denise Maldonado

Staff: Broc Coward; Steve Be Cotte; Erica Beighley

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Self-Introductions – Denise Carter, Chair
Called to order at 4:32 PM. [Meeting Presentation](#).
2. **Action: Approve minutes from December 17, 2020 Meeting. 1st: Welch. 2nd: Friend. No abstentions. Motion carries.**
3. Public Safety Education Series Guest Speaker– Derreck Hughes. Vice President of Operations, Block by Block. Presented slides 5-23.
 - Hughes started off by saying that the Clean and Safe Team were classified as essential workers and allowed to continue operations during pandemic in Downtown Long Beach. Their key focus was sanitizing high touch areas including benches, cross walk buttons as well as distribution of proper safety equipment. The homeless and street population were magnified due to the decrease of people seen in the streets which contributed to Clean and Safe team increasing welfare checks among this population. In addition, they also served as a first point of contact for businesses and increased patrol/property checks to make sure no encampments were being set up in abandoned buildings. Lastly, they have critical communication on their website on how to keep yourself and how they are keeping their team safe.
 - Hughes informed that the next topic that Block by Blocks Clean and Safe team will focus on is educating the public on the vaccine and when it would be available to them and making sure public is aware of the safety of the vaccine.
 - Hughes shared Block by Block offers mental health services for employees and have brought in counseling services to speak collectively to people who have all been affected differently with pandemic.
 - Carter asked Hughes if Block by Block had any safety issues or extra training that they provide their employees? Hughes responded they have trainings twice a month with all employees, mental health training every quarter, interaction with public and those struggling with mental health and addiction issues. Block by Block trains employees how to respond to certain situations and the inhouse mental health training aims to destigmatize what people are struggling with in the streets.
 - Hughes said he has learned it is not fruitful to tackle entire homeless population but instead target the few that are most vulnerable to health or safety concerns to businesses.
 - Hughes added that people are still investing in street level services in DT Long Beach and making Clean and Safe Team more visible will make it easier for businesses to reopen making both business owners and customers feel safe.
4. Public Safety Partners Report
 - a. Department of Health and Human Services- Max Estrada Operations Supervisor, Multi- Service Center, max.estrada@longbeach.gov.
 - Estrada shared with committee that there are currently pick-up locations for their winter shelters and are currently still offering showers and hygiene items for women in the morning and men in the evening.
 - The Multi- Service Center is still serving lunch from Monday to Friday at noon with outreach being done on the weekends.
 - Estrada informed Committee Members about Project Homekey, which is a program that targets those people that are the most vulnerable out in the street with chronic health conditions and are placed in a hotel while waiting for housing and services, They currently have to hotels for those that are



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- COVID positive in addition to having a Days Inn and 2 Motel 6 hotel programs that offer services as well.
- Estrada gave out the Multi-Service Centers outreach hotline, 562-570-4550, and advised that it is a voicemail only service and usually respond within 2 business days.
 - Krieger asked Estrada how they plan to get homeless population to vaccination centers? Estrada answered that question is reserved for Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Officer, and shared email address paul.duncan@longbeach.gov. Coward added that the homeless population are in the Phase 1 B Tier 2 group and projected date of vaccination would be March 2021. Estrada responded that vaccinations have started to be planned and coordinated and would receive more information from Paul Duncan, Coward suggested for Duncan to join meeting and provide update next month.
- b. Long Beach City Prosecutor- Dean Vescera
- Vescera shared that the number one question he has been asked is regarding the new DA Gascon and quality of life cases not being prosecuted or filed. Vescera wanted to clarify that Long Beach is not under the jurisdiction of Gascon and will be moving forward for the safety of the residents and businesses downtown. Vescera also added that this year the law changed and most misdemeanors and stay away orders are reduced to one year of probation.
 - Lastly, Vescera shared he was working to make programs more accessible after being able to look back on some successes and failures. One success being the portal where citizens would submit stories/evidence and expanding on that. He said that since this was a success he would like to create a DT Long Beach portal where citizens are able to submit their own pictures and evidence that occurs in the area.
- c. Long Beach Police Department- Officer Sergio Ruvalcaba
- Ruvalcaba told Committee that they are currently working three Emergency Action Plans (EAP) and currently experiencing increased auto thefts.
 - Ruvalcaba encouraged Committee Members and public to call police department if they see anything suspicious. It is better to call and make a record of it in order to form EAPs.
5. Staff Report – Broc Coward. Presented slides 25-30.
- a. Update on Clean and Safe Team Activities
- Coward shared that the last few weeks had weather related items, such as palm fronds, that kept the Clean and Safe Team busy in the streets.
 - Coward said that the Clean and Safe Team has kept monthly statistics and seen an increase in trash being collected by team, at the curblin, and in trash cans during COVID. This is the same trend that has been shared by other Clean and Safe Teams in other cities as well and could be caused by the Stay at Home Order being lifted and more people coming out in January.
 - Coward informed Committee that currently they are under budget by 6%.
6. Chairperson Report – Carter. Presented slides 31-39.
- a. Review of Committee Goal Strategies and Milestones
- i. Helping Hands
- Friend shared that she had reached out to 3 hotels so far and one offered towel's as well as shampoo but is waiting for the last hotel to respond. Friend also told Committee about one hotel declining participating because they were not comfortable due to COVID. Coward told Friend it was worth introducing ourselves now, even if they are not wanting to participate because of apprehension. Friend agreed it was important to build a relationship and bridge the gap.
 - Carter asked about receiving monetary contributions? Welched confirmed that DOC Board Members are on board with taking their money contributions.



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- Carter brought up developing collateral? Coward suggested Committee convert campaign ideas into a google survey they can send out to members and have them pick a top 3 or 5. From there Committee can send those to DLBA's Communication Team to develop slogans and graphics.
- ii. Go Long Beach App
 - Carter suggested to promote 2 areas of the app that will most likely be used, graffiti areas and dump items, and promote this on social media in combination with a gift card giveaway. New folks to app or people that contribute pictures could provide entry to the giveaway.
- iii. Mystery Shopper Program
 - Timberlake shared he drafted 5 forms that are inside of the google doc folder, 4 of which are geared to each position and a pressure washer evaluation. Be Cotte added a summary form that can be done a little quicker.
 - Be Cotte suggested to give whoever would be doing mystery shopper program sort of a cheat sheet letting them know what to expect to be seen from each.

7. Public Comment (Three minutes on all non-agenda items)
 8. Old Business
 9. New Business
 10. Adjournment
- Meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM

**Next Public Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
4:30 PM**

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

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