



**Downtown Long Beach Associates  
Minutes of the Public Safety Task Force**

**Thursday, June 24, 2010—9:30am  
DLBA Office, Executive Conference Room  
100 West Broadway, Suite 120  
Long Beach, CA 90802**

**PRESENT**

**Voting Members:** Syndi Croad, Linda Guthmann-Krieger, Janet Moore, Jeff Pilbeam

**Advisors:** Cory Allen, 1<sup>st</sup> Council District; Sgt. Ted Reno, LBPD

**Staff:** Mary Coburn, Erin Murphy

**ABSENT**

**Voting Members:** Jenny Bethune, LASD; Eric Kianpour, LASD; David Lopez, ITC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Janet Moore called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**II. TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Linda Guthmann-Krieger made a motion to approve Janet Moore, Syndi Croad, Jeff Pilbeam and Linda Guthmann-Krieger as voting members. Syndi Croad seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed.

Croad made a motion to approve representatives from the following organizations as Task Force Advisors: Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Mayor's Office and First and Second District Council Offices. Jeff Pilbeam seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed.

### **III. TASK FORCE ATTENDANCE**

Guthmann-Krieger made a motion that voting members missing three (3) meetings in a row or four (4) meetings in a year may be removed subject to review by the remaining voting task force members. Croad seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Pilbeam made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2010, meeting of the Public Safety Task Force. Croad seconded the motion. Three (3) in favor; none opposed; one (1) abstention.

### **V. TASK FORCE UPDATES**

LBPD Sgt. Ted Reno reported that the new South Division Commander Joe Stilinovich was being briefed on Downtown issues. The Task Force briefly discussed the recent car chase that terminated at Rainbow Harbor. There was no LA Sheriff's Department report.

Mary Coburn reported that the Clean and Safe Team contract vendor RFP process was ongoing, with RFPs from seven Clean Team and nine Safe Team vendor candidates submitted by the June 23 deadline. Coburn invited Task Force members to participate in the interviews with the top three vendors for each team. Croad volunteered to assist with the Clean Team interviews on July 22, 1-5pm, and Cory Allen volunteered to participate in the Safe Team interviews on July 23, 9am to 1pm. Guthmann-Krieger also indicated interest in participating, pending her availability. Coburn noted that the current contracts have been in place for three years, during which time costs have increased but funding has not. Croad inquired whether the current contractors had submitted RFPS, which Coburn affirmed.

#### Panhandling

The Task Force then reviewed panhandling ordinances and codes from Tacoma, WA; Santa Monica, CA; Oakland, CA; Santa Cruz, CA; San Diego, CA; and Palo Alto, CA, for

purposes of crafting a draft ordinance to present to the City Prosecutor and City Attorney for review. Coburn stated that ordinances can impose reasonable time, place, and manner, but cannot make panhandling entirely illegal due to First Amendment free speech rights. Allen noted that the new City Prosecutor would take office in July and perhaps make this item a higher priority.

Pilbeam spoke of the negative impact of panhandling on businesses and recommended that the Task Force also review any proposed language with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Guthmann-Krieger inquired why the homeless population targets the Downtown, and Coburn replied that the concentration of resources in the Downtown makes the area attractive. Allen mentioned that Assembly member Bonnie Lowenthal was proposing making the homeless a protected class, but Coburn clarified that it was only in the case of hate crimes and targeted violence against that population.

Pilbeam added that LBPD would need to enforce the ordinance, and Sgt. Reno stated that LBPD needed an ordinance in order to know what to enforce. Guthmann-Krieger suggested that the Task Force members review the sample ordinances and discuss specific components to consider including in a draft ordinance for Long Beach. Croad offered to e-mail Coburn information from San Diego, which Coburn would disseminate to the Task Force members.

Coburn inquired whether the ordinance should be specific to the Downtown or citywide, and Allen remarked that most Council districts would probably be interested in such an ordinance. Sgt. Reno added that panhandling was a common business complaint citywide. Pilbeam recommended framing the ordinance in terms of the multitude of services already provided to the homeless. Coburn suggesting designing an education piece for businesses and other community members.

Croad noted that she would support an expansion of the LBPD Quality of Life unit before recommending that the Task Force consider how long other ordinances had

been in effect, if they had been court-tested or changed, any relevant police statistics regarding calls for service, and how in general they were working.

The Task Force discussed locations in the Downtown where homeless individuals tend to sleep and the notification process followed when agencies sweep the homeless from the flood control area. There was also discussion that there is no law that homeless cannot sleep on the street, and many cities have adopted such a law with the provision that sufficient beds must be available. Per a comment by Pilbeam, Coburn offered to follow up on suspected unauthorized tile removal at the American Hotel building. Coburn also offered to provide a copy of Santa Monica's response to ACLU's lawsuit.

The Task Force then agreed that each member would provide Coburn and Guthmann-Krieger with comments on the sample ordinances, particularly addressing a proposed definition of solicitation and physical area of enforcement, with the aim of drafting a sample proposed ordinance.

The Task Force also discussed the procedure for discussing the eventual draft with the City Prosecutor and City Attorney and whether a City Council directive would be necessary in advance. Coburn clarified that DLBA could work with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Districts to review the draft in advance of requesting that the Council offices direct City legal resources to provide advice and assistance. Regarding other cities' legal challenges, Allen recommended calling other cities' City Attorney's offices; relative to enforcement, Allen recommended contacting police departments.

The Task Force members also agreed to follow up with their assigned cities. For the city attorneys, questions would include whether an ordinance has been challenged, how long it has been in effect, and whether revisions have been necessary and under what circumstances. For the police departments, questions would include the effectiveness of enforcement to address the issue of panhandling, the overall impact, and any potential problems.

The Task Force then requested that the July meeting address panhandling and postpone a presentation from Don't Die Drunk until the August meeting.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.