



Minutes of the Public Safety Task Force

Thursday, January 28, 2010—9:30 a.m.

**DLBA Office, Executive Conference Room
100 West Broadway, Suite 120
Long Beach, CA 90802**

PRESENT

Voting Members: Bill Doll, Syndi Croad, Don Darnauer, Linda Guthmann Krieger, LBPD Commander Jay Johnson, Janet Moore, Joel Roberts

Guests: LBPD Sergeant Ted Reno

Staff: Mary Coburn, DLBA; Paulita Elliott, Block-by-Block; Erin Murphy, DLBA

ABSENT

Voting Members: Jenny Bethune, LASD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mary Coburn called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., and self-introductions were made.

II. TASK FORCE UPDATES

Homeless Connections

Joel Roberts updated the Task Force on the work of Homeless Connections, which had surveyed 345 individuals living on the street in 2009. Since then, 19 individuals had been assisted into housing. Roberts added that an additional 20 individuals were being targeted for housing assistance, with funding provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Don Knabe of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Long Beach Mayor's Office, among others. Coburn inquired about how the DLBA could assist Homeless Connections' efforts. Guthmann Krieger recommended publicizing the positive transitions on the DLBA website, and Coburn offered to coordinate donations to assist individuals who are able to move into housing. Bill Doll added that the program leads to self-sufficiency beyond simply providing housing by arranging for individuals to register for Section 8, Social Security, and other resources. Doll added that a perceptible change in the attitudes of homeless individuals has been noted as more individuals are successfully assisted, mentioning that an opportunity to build community

awareness existed in the Long Beach Reads One Book selection of *The Soloist*, chronicling the struggles of a homeless man in Los Angeles. Croad suggested hosting an event related to this program, and Coburn stated that the City had arranged several events that DLBA may be able to help promote. Janet Moore remarked that schools could assist with gathering donations for individuals making a transition to permanent housing.

LBDP

Cmdr. Jay Johnson reported a City-wide crime reduction in 2009 of over 2%, with the South Division's reduction at 0.5%, reductions all the more notable in a year of economic strife. Cmdr. Johnson mentioned that bicycle theft increased over 100% in the South Division in 2009, and the Task Force discussed strategies for addressing this issue, such as promoting the need for bicycle licensing by owners and using U-shaped locks rather than cable locks. Roberts suggested providing residential buildings with information on bicycle safety. Coburn stated that DLBA had included an article on the subject in the Public Safety e-newsletter in 2009 that could be made available and offered to follow up directly with residential buildings as well as e-mail the information to the Downtown Residential Council for distribution. Erin Murphy suggested having a bicycle registration booth at the Long Beach Bike Festival in May.

Croad thanked the LBDP Quality of Life unit for a successful intervention with a chronically homeless woman who had agreed to be moved to a mental health facility. It was noted that patience and sincerity were necessary in building relationships with homeless individuals.

Roberts noted that he had been in communication with the First Council District and the Mental Health America (MHA) facility on Elm Avenue regarding the loitering and noise associated with the drop-in center. Roberts mentioned that MHA security had agreed to patrol the residential CityPlace Lofts building across the street.

PUBLIC SAFETY WEBSITE

Murphy refreshed the Task Force on the existing web presence of the Clean and Safe programs and referred to Task Force recommendations to consolidate information on homeless outreach and contextualize LBDP statistics. Murphy then presented the proposed pages, which included new information on communications efforts with a link to the Public Safety e-newsletter as well as information on several regular meetings. There was discussion about the presentation of statistics and how best to provide data in context. It was decided that Cmdr. Johnson would provide a synopsis similar to the information he presents in meetings, and the website would also include a link to the LBDP website. The Task Force requested that the link be sent to them for additional review, with comments due by February 4. The Task Force also recommended that contact information for the DLBA Operations office appear on the page.

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT MEETING REPORT

Coburn reported on the issues discussed at the Entertainment District meeting December 2009, noting that residents had expressed concern regarding noise levels. Coburn stated that the Second Council District had proposed changing the ordinance to prohibit outdoor amplified music after 10pm, rather than until 2am, on Sundays. In consideration of business owners' concerns, Councilmember Lowenthal agreed to allow businesses to self-police for the next few months before deciding if the ordinance change would still be necessary. Coburn added that LBPD and the Downtown Guides had increased staffing on Sunday evenings. Coburn then noted that the meeting had also included information on pedicabs and street peddlers. Cmdr. Johnson inquired about attendance, and Coburn reported that approximately 30 had attended the meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Moore requested an update on parking garage signage. Murphy stated that DLBA was working with the City to secure matching grant funds from MTA for the project and that she would arrange for additional information on the project to be provided to the Task Force. Murphy added that the next Public Safety Task Force meeting could address goals for the remainder of FY2009-10 following the DLBA Board's special goal-setting meeting on February 17. Moore requested that the Task Force also review the projects presented by Coburn last year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Coburn asked if anyone would consider serving as Chair of the Task Force, and Moore agreed to Co-Chair. It was suggested that she approach Croad regarding Co-Chairing as well.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.