



Public Safety Task Force
Thursday, January 29, 2009—10:00 a.m.
DLBA Office
100 West Broadway, Suite 120
Long Beach, CA 90802

Members Present: Jenny Bethune (Los Angeles Sheriff Department), David Chevalier (Los Angeles Sheriff Department), Broc Coward (2nd Council District), Syndi Croad (DLBA Board), Don Darnauer (Downtown Residential Council), Paulita Elliott (Downtown Guides), Jay Johnson (Long Beach Police Department), Janet Moore (DLBA Board)

Members Absent: John Morris (DLBA Board)

Guests: None

Staff: Mary Coburn, Kraig Kojian, Erin Murphy, Steve Sheldon

Public Relations and Perception of Safety

Kraig Kojian stated that the DLBA would be tabling the “Junk in the Trunk” program to allow time to develop a more comprehensive, unified public relations (PR) strategy that could encompass many aspects of safety and target both consumers as well as potential perpetrators.

Kojian added that DLBA will assist LBPD in publicizing positive statistics, include Public Safety updates in the monthly e-newsletter, and create a Public Safety webpage on the DLBA site to assist in PR efforts. Steve Sheldon also mentioned the DLBA’s new quarterly walking map. The Task Force discussed other information outlets such as at hotels and through residential associations.

Kojian mentioned the negative signage forbidding multiple activities, such as skateboarding and cruising.

Neighborhood/Community/Business Watch

Kojian reported that LBPD was willing to work with the various constituencies Downtown to develop Watch programs tailored to their individual needs.

LBPD Deployment

Cmdr. Johnson reported that a full-time Downtown Detail could not be funded from the City’s General Fund at this time; in regard to Tidelands funds, Johnson noted that they are geographically restricted and that oil prices are dropping, resulting in less revenue in the fund. Broc Coward did not recommend pursuing Tidelands funds as other issues with broader support, such as addressing water quality issues, also perfectly fulfill the mission of the Tidelands.

Coward inquired about the role of the Guides and the possibility of increasing Guide service to create the perception of public safety. There was some discussion about the limits of the Guides' scope of service as well as the efforts of the LBPD to be more approachable. It was mentioned that Police Explorers would be beneficial in this situation. Cmdr. Johnson added that grant-funding was unreliable in the long term. Johnson commended DLBA outreach to promoters regarding scheduling events that would attract a positive element.

Miscellaneous

Coward announced the addition of a dog park at Lincoln Park.

Syndi Croad informed the TF of the Homeless Dialogue Collaborative's work to assist with quality of life issues.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.
(The Last Thursday of Each Month)
At DLBA Office
100 West Broadway, Suite 120
Long Beach, CA 90802

To be discussed:
-Public Relations Campaign