



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

Thursday, August 27, 2009—9:30 a.m.
100 West Broadway, Suite 120
Long Beach, CA 90802

Present

Members: Syndi Croad, Don Darnauer, Joel Roberts

Guests: Sgt. Darryl Chevalier, Sgt. Greg Schirmer

Staff: Mary Coburn, Kraig Kojian, Vanessa McCollum

Absent:

Members: Lt, Jenny Bethune, Cmdr. Jay Johnson, Janet Moore, John Morris, Broc Coward

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mary Coburn called the Task Force to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Don Darnauer made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2009 Public Safety Task Force meeting. Joel Roberts seconded the motion. As there was not a quorum present, minutes were not approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

LBPD Deployment on Pine Avenue

Coburn asked Sgt. Greg Schirmer to share specific staffing levels in the Downtown Entertainment District. Schirmer stated that he cannot release specific staffing levels and noted that he has not seen major changes in staffing levels recently. Kraig Kojian asked if DLBA could be notified of any major or seasonal staffing level changes in the entertainment district as far in advance as possible. Joel Roberts stated that business owners believe there are more officers around at lunch time and less at night. Kojian explained how critical it is that the LBPD and the DLBA be communicating the same messages to business owners regarding LBPD Staffing levels in the entertainment district.

Neighborhood Watch

Coburn reported that approximately 12 individuals attended the first Neighborhood Watch Program on August 12 at the Long Beach Police Department. Lisa Massacani provided an overview of the neighborhood watch program and discussed suspicious activity, being a good witness, and what to expect when you call 911. Also discussed were the reverse 911 Emergency Notification System and who to call in the LBPD. The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be at 7 PM on September 29 at The Cellar.

Public Signage in Garages

DLBA staff reported that the signage for the parking structures has grown to include a review of all existing structure signage in order to develop a cohesive program. The signage will be phased in as each of the parking structures is automated. The Civic Center parking structure on Broadway will be the first. A meeting has been held with the designer to discuss signage and a scope of work. A quote is pending.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Syndi Croad informed the task force of an incident at the Village Grind in which a sexual assault occurred in the early morning while an employee was working alone, and stated that the suspect had come into Moondance Catering as well in the past. Lt. Shirmer stated that the suspect was in custody and expressed some simple ways people can increase safety by walking with purpose, staffing at least two employees at all times, and increasing the neighborhood watch by including businesses. Shirmer also stated that it is important to always call the police if you see anything suspicious at all.

Joel Roberts informed the task force of the LB Connections meeting at the Aquarium of the Pacific on September 17, 2009. LB Connections has identified 12 people they can get into permanent housing immediately. They will also be trying to find a compassionate alternative to the suggestion that people be allowed to sleep in their cars.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.