On September 22, 2015, the Public Safety Committee (Committee) requested the Police Department to provide, in writing, the information presented for Agenda Item No. 2 – a report on recent shooting activity in the City. This memorandum serves to transmit this information to the Committee.

When reviewing the information provided herein, it is important to remember that in 2014, Long Beach experienced a 42-year low for violent crimes, with an 18 percent decrease in the past five years alone (see attached). This can be attributed not only to the work of the Police Department and its law enforcement partners, but also to the work of the other City departments that make up the Public Safety Continuum.

It is also important to bear in mind that Long Beach is not alone in the recent uptick in shootings and violent crimes; it is a nationwide trend. The following statistics are from 35 cities that participated in a recent Major Cities Chiefs Association discussion on violent crime and trends occurring around the country:

- Homicides have increased 19% on average across all cities;
- Non-fatal shootings have increased 62%;
- The use of multiple firearms were used in 40% of the cities;
- Gang-related violence and retaliatory violence was reported by nearly 50% of the cities; and
- An increase in offenders under the influence of synthetic drugs was reported by 30% of the cities.

While Long Beach is currently experiencing an increase in violent crimes, many large cities are experiencing increased crime rates that far exceed our own. That said, please be assured that the Police Department, and all other City departments, are very much concerned with these increases, and that staff will do all they can to mitigate them.

Below please find the statistical information that was verbally presented to the Committee, as well as many strategies the Police Department employs to impact violent crime.
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The data provided is for the period of January 1 through September 21, for each year noted.

TOTAL SHOOTINGS

- Higher in 2015 when compared to 2014 (194 v. 140)
- Higher than the prior five year average (194 v. 180)

GANGLINK RELATED SHOOTINGS

- Higher in 2015 when compared to 2014 (81 v. 55)
- Lower than the prior five year average (81 v. 86)

NON-GANGLINK RELATED SHOOTINGS

- Higher in 2015 when compared to 2014 (113 v. 85)
- Higher than the prior five year average (113 v. 94)

TOTAL MURDERS

- Higher in 2015 when compared to 2014 (25 v. 18)
- Higher than the prior five year average (25 v. 22.6)

GANGLINK RELATED MURDERS

- Lower in 2015 when compared to 2014 (9 v. 11)
- Lower than the prior five year average (9 v. 10.6)

POLICE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIES TO IMPACT VIOLENT CRIME

- Weekly updates from crime analysts to patrol commanders on when and where shootings are occurring.
- Appropriate staffing to coincide with the times shootings are most likely to occur (between 8:00 pm and 4:00 am).
- Enforcement of the local curfew ordinance to deter juveniles from becoming the victim of a crime or committing a crime.
- Weekly updates from gang detectives on intelligence received regarding gang shootings.
- Focused enforcement at the divisional level by patrol officers, Directed Enforcement Teams, Impact Motors and Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) Team based on intelligence provided by division analysts and gang detectives.
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- Service and enforcement of gang court orders (currently four in effect).
- Local and regional narcotics enforcement to impact one of the common ways gangs finance their operations.
- Two probation officers assigned full time to our department—one is assigned to the Gang Enforcement Section and the other to the PRCS (AB109) Team.
- Partnership with the City Prosecutor’s Office in the “Opt Out” program. This is a means for gang members to leave the gang life by undergoing a process to get removed from a gang court order. The process includes community endorsements and beginning employment or education. The program also provides assistance with free gang tattoo removal.
- Aggressive investigations into human trafficking suspects, most of whom are gang members.
- Gang members must register with local law enforcement pursuant to California Penal Code Section 186.30.
- Aggressive residential burglary investigations, supported through non-recurring funds approved by City Council. Gang members commit crimes of various types to finance their lifestyle and to buy drugs and guns. Burglary is one of these crimes.
- Increased staffing in all patrol divisions to address violent crime (funded on an overtime basis).
- Currently evaluating the feasibility of increasing helicopter flight time to augment patrol resources.
- In January the city was awarded a three year, $1.5 million grant to support anti-gang efforts and prevent the victimization of at-risk female youth. This CAL GRIP grant is being used to promote human trafficking awareness, mental health treatment, housing assistance and mentorship. The grant is managed by the Long Beach GRIP Advisory Council.
- Participation in the city’s Violence Prevention Plan, commonly known as “Safe Long Beach.”

If you have any questions, please contact me, or my Chief of Staff, Commander Lisa Lopez, at extension 87301.

RGL:DH:dh
PSC Data - TFF
Attachments
Cc: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Non-Gang Shootings - Year to Date Through September 21

Total Murders - Year to Date Through September 21