

Date: November 2, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Wally Hebeish, Chief of Police



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Enhancing Downtown Safety**

On October 24, 2023, the Mayor and City Council took immediate action in requesting that the City provide additional focus on the Downtown area of Long Beach. While staff will return to the City Council with a more comprehensive plan that involves multiple departments, we want to share the immediate action from the Police Department on the public safety approaches that have been implemented so far.

Long Beach Police Department (PD) initiated an Event Action Plan (effective October 28, 2023) specific to the Downtown area, with a focus on reducing crime, enhancing safety, and improving the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors in identified areas through an evidence-based analysis of crime statistics and trends, and information gathering.

These enhanced PD public safety objectives will be met by a temporary reallocation of available officers (including Neighborhood Safety Bike Team and Quality of Life officers) to maintain a visible and increased police presence in identified areas. This operation will include appropriate enforcement of LB Municipal Codes, Penal Codes, and Vehicle Code violations, district car checks, highly visible patrols on bikes and foot, and ongoing engagement efforts with community and businesses.

The multifaceted approach will focus on impacting trespassing, illegal drug sales, violent crime, property crime, juvenile loitering, juvenile curfew, and other crimes which might occur in the identified operational area of downtown.

This operation also incorporates a focused communication strategy for messaging and outreach as well as the ongoing and appropriate dissemination of information related to crime. Division Commanders will maintain responsibility for communicating with stakeholders (CVB, DLBA, CD offices, etc.) regarding crime and police operations, and PD-Communications team will liaison with city PIO team when necessary to address city communications associated with downtown Long Beach.

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If you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Commander Michael Solomita, at (562) 570-7301.

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