

Date: May 10, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T. Modica*

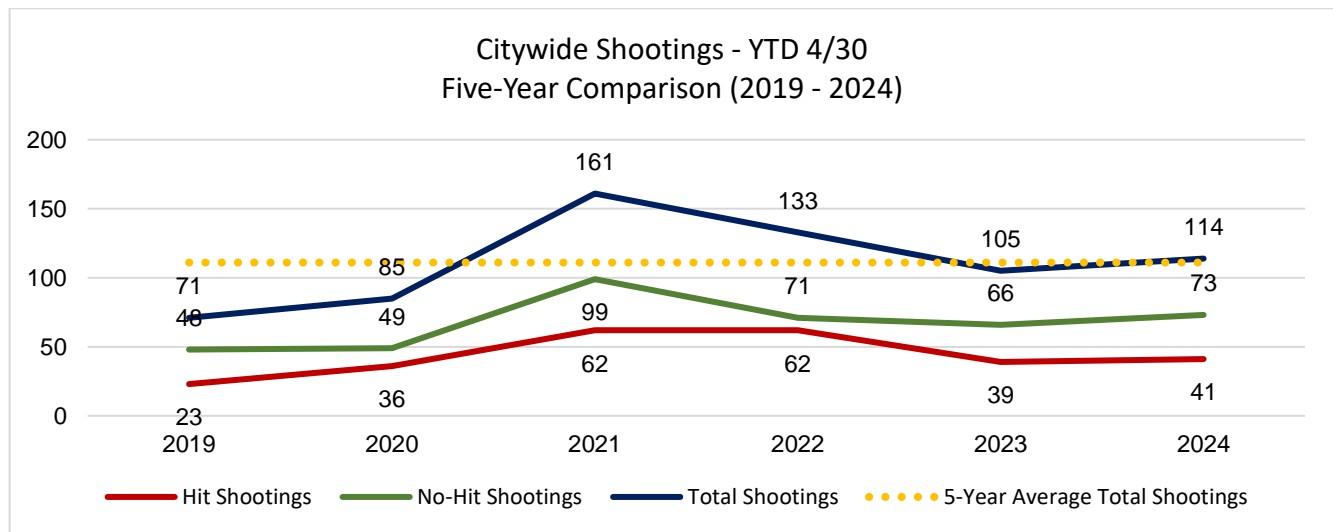
From: Wally Hebeish, Chief of Police *W. Hebeish*

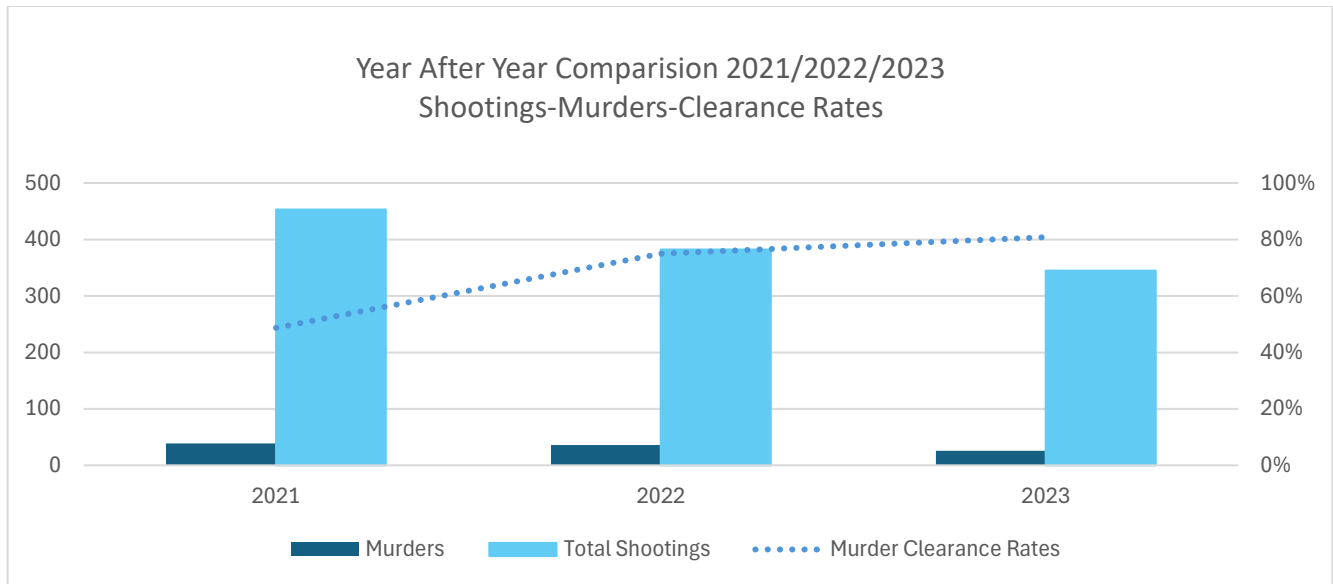
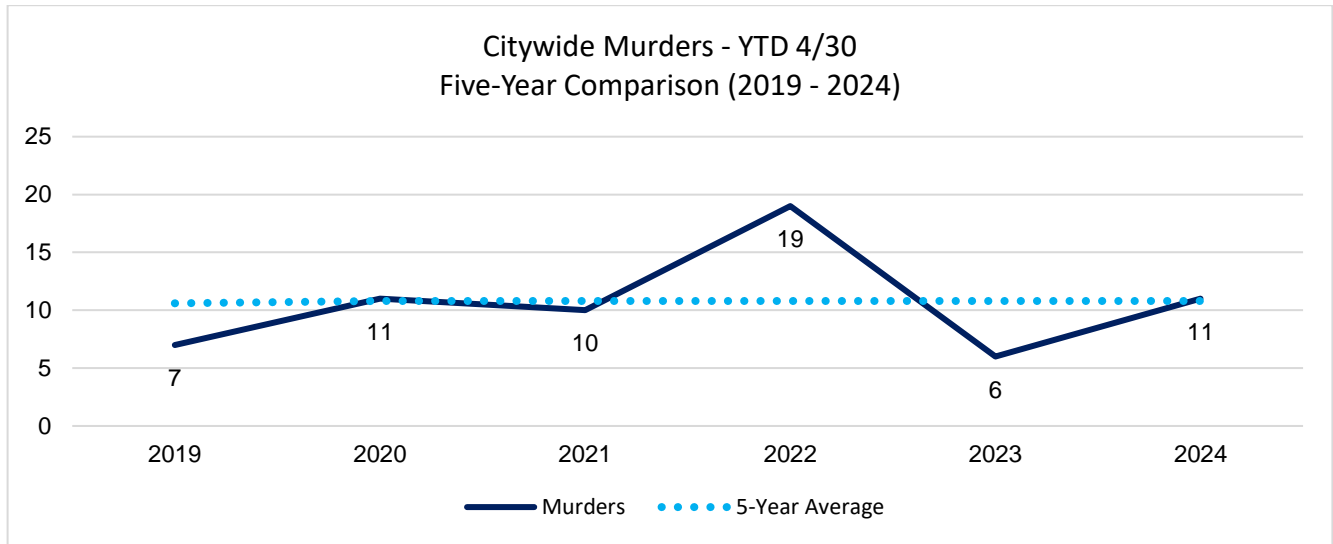
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject: Gun Violence Focus and Resource Optimization**

This memorandum has been prepared to provide information regarding the Long Beach Police Department's (LBPD) ongoing efforts and strategies to address an increase in the availability of illegal firearms and the involvement of violent offenders in gun violence. Additionally, the LBPD is supplementing ongoing efforts to address current crime trends, implement and support prevention programs, and enhance safety throughout our entire community. The department is exploring various operational modifications to prioritize and reallocate resources in a manner that supports these efforts, while also addressing staffing shortages and maintaining optimal patrol service levels.

As of April 30, 2024, Long Beach has experienced an increase in citywide shootings and murders compared to this time in 2023. These increases follow year after year decreases in both categories and fall within the five-year average for our city, as shown in the graphs below.





### Focused Deterrence and Response

As part of our evidence-based approach to deploying resources and adapting to crime changes, LBPd command staff has reviewed and analyzed data associated with gun violence as well as developed strategies centered on high-crime prevention.

In addition to crime mapping assessments and data analysis, we recently created a High Crime Focus Team (HCFT) through the reallocation of existing staff and resources. Building on existing community policing models and neighborhood collaboration programs, HCFT is tasked with working to help reduce shootings and gun crime throughout the city. HCFT meets daily to discuss crime trends and develop plans for precise and focused patrol efforts.

Understanding that the illegal possession of firearms can often contribute to gun violence, HCFT is utilizing a data-informed approach to identify high-risk individuals and high-risk areas

where gun violence is most prevalent. HCFT, in collaboration with our Neighborhood Safety Bike Team, will build upon community policing principles to ensure we are not only providing proactive enforcement, but also establishing trust in the areas experiencing the highest rates of gun violence.

The need for comprehensive and thorough investigations remains a key component to reducing gun violence and we must maintain our ability to thoroughly investigate acts of gun violence and hold offenders accountable. We also understand that optimal clearance rates and successful prosecution can contribute to a reduction in gun crimes. Therefore, we are supplementing our limited investigative resources through the possible acquisition of additional technology items, such as mobile trailer security cameras, to better obtain evidence and deter crimes in areas where a need has been identified by data analysis.

Accountability throughout the criminal justice system must be incorporated into a successful gun violence strategy; therefore, we are working closely with our criminal justice partners to ensure violent offenders and serial shooters are held accountable for their actions and are unable to continue committing acts of gun violence. In addition, we continue our established collaborations with local, regional, and federal law enforcement partners to focus on gun violence, as well as crimes which are contributing to crime increases, such as the nationwide trend of KIA thefts and the violent crimes associated with these thefts. Community policing is at the foundation of our efforts, and we are working to increase our connection to community leaders and neighborhood groups to further increase partnership-based solutions to gun violence and neighborhood safety. Additionally, our Community Services Bureau is working with other City departments to ensure violence prevention and intervention efforts are inclusive of our communities and those we serve.

## **Resource Optimization**

To remain adaptable and create specific, precise gun violence response and prevention strategies, we have evaluated the following operational modifications to optimize our current resources and reduced staffing levels. Currently, all sworn police officers are required to work two additional 10-hour shifts in patrol each month. The impact of mandatory overtime can result in fatigue, exhaustion, and increased stress and anxiety. It is imperative that adjustments to operations are made that support employee wellness and allow the department to remain adaptable and adjust to varying crime trends.

The ability to reallocate existing resources while also remaining fiscally responsible has required an extensive workload reduction analysis. The following operational modifications are being explored as pilot programs, allowing us to optimize and divert resources, while remaining agile and adapting to safety concerns and community needs:

- Non-Injury Traffic Collision Report Calls – Response will be restricted to only those collisions meeting specific criteria for a police officer response. The department has completed research into best practices associated with the reporting of non-injury traffic collisions and these calls will now be triaged in alignment with neighboring law enforcement agencies. LBPD Community Service Assistants will continue responding to non-injury traffic collision report calls when available.

- Telephonic Reporting Unit – The department will create a centralized reporting area for modified duty employees to handle over the phone report calls in which a patrol officer response is unnecessary or not requested. This will complement our existing online crime reporting website.
- Patrol Shift and Overtime Reduction – Employee wellness remains a priority and is necessary to support the wellness of our community. We continually evaluate the impacts of workload on our staff and how this contributes to fatigue, stress, and anxiety. Based on our current workload analysis, we will reduce the number of mandatory overtime shifts currently being required from two shifts a month to one shift a month. In addition, we are also analyzing base staffing level adjustments based on a variety of factors including area workload and needs and the onboarding of additional Community Service Assistants to assist with non-emergency report calls.

The Long Beach Police Department is committed to being an innovative police department. We will continue analyzing monthly crime statistics while also addressing community safety concerns. Further promoting our mission of collaborating to reduce crime and enhance safety, we continue to explore modernized policing strategies, while working and engaging with our community to develop partnership-based solutions to keep our entire city safe. If you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Commander Mike Solomita, at (562) 570-7301.

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY  
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
APRIL WALKER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
GRACE YOON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
TYLER BONANNO-CURLEY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT HEADS