

2nd Street Late Night Public Safety Meeting Follow Up Q&A

Below are the questions received (with duplicates removed) from the January 28, 2026 community meeting about late night public safety concerns in Belmont Shore.

Questions	Answer
We've lived here over 30 years, There has always been bar activity and issues, but not to the level it's at now. Is there an effort to identify root causes?	Land use and economic analysis point to economic changes, for example rising inequality and instability, and increased cost of commercial rent that is making retail businesses more challenging and increases that the cost of running a business. There may also be a connection to social media in how entertainment destinations are advertised and need to compete.
is the budget for having Police presence here in the shore based on a 7 day a week?	The budget was based on two models — 1) is two officers for 4 days per week (peak days WTFS) 2) is 7 days per week peak hours and a supervisor.
Can you tell me how many folks are on the call?	Attendance varied throughout the meeting with 146 attendees at the height of participation
Can we place a rule on parking lots to not loiter after evening hours? (to not disrupt neighbors?)	To do that, the City would need to close the lots at a certain time as well as cite all vehicles remaining in the closed lot. City staff are working with the Belmont Shore Parking Commission to identify and consider options and determine next steps forward, in regards to closing the public parking lots.
Can we place security cameras in parking lots?	Public Works and Technology & Innovation are exploring options for motion activated lights as well as security lights.
Will LBPD have the ability to remove persons storing their tent/personal property on public sidewalks to improve our day to day conditions in Belmont Shore? Currently City regulations is to post a sign and wait 48 hours. Please note that many residents and business owners don't call PD anymore because PD lacks policies to enforce/remove persons storing their personal property on public property.	The 48-hour posting is not a PD rule, but as stated in the question a City Regulation. Reconsideration of the City Regulation would need to be reviewed by City Council and the City Attorney's office. People are still encouraged to call PD if someone and their stuff is blocking a sidewalk or business entry, as many times the beat officer can respond to have the person and stuff moved along.

<p>I understand that California dram-shop laws are extremely weak compared to other states. Do what degree does this hinder what Long Beach can do about holding businesses accountable for overserving & resulting harms? Thanks!</p>	<p>The City of Long Beach is not able to enforce on specific issues related to the service of alcohol since that power is delegated to the State of California Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) unit. ABC was consulted about this question and they noted that at ABC, they have a special unit called TRACE (Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies). This unit, or the local district office, will be called upon when there is an accident or incident involving great bodily injury or death where alcohol is related. There are investigations that have determined the premises was at fault, and there are others where it is determined that the person made their own mistakes and errors and there isn't accountability to be held against the establishment. ABC is working closely with our local allied police departments in order to have good communication so that we may be informed of accidents and incidents that happen within their city that fit this threshold. Additionally, we work with the PD for anything that doesn't meet the threshold for a TRACE investigation, but there is an incident at the bar that might be something they can be held accountable for.</p>
<p>Of course, no ability to quantify how many people do not call to report due to exasperation with lack of response by city to previous calls for aid. Can you detail how to get in incident and report numbers and documentation?</p>	<p>To request information (historical), such as calls for service or police reports, anyone can file a Public Records Act Request (PRA). If you are calling in an issue and want to follow up, the best practice is to ask dispatch for a call number at the time of the incident.</p>

<p>What is being done to address 1) Drinking in parking lots and on the side streets (i.e., public drinking) 2) Street vendors selling illegally on 2nd Street?</p>	<p>Officers can issue citations when they observe drinking in public occurring, residents are encouraged to call the non-emergency number and provide a location and description of those involved.</p> <p>SB946 limits how cities can regulate sidewalk vending, specifically prohibiting enforcement based on concerns like economic competition or community animus. The law also decriminalized sidewalk vending, meaning enforcement is limited to administrative remedies rather than criminal penalties. Two departments handle enforcement for sidewalk vending: The Business Services Bureau (Financial Management Department) enforces the Sidewalk Vending Ordinance and the Health Department enforces the California State Health and Safety Code related to food safety. For more complex enforcement situations - such as food or equipment disposal - a Complaint Response Team (CRT) is initiated, collaborating across multiple departments, including the Safety Office, Police Department, and Public Works alongside Financial Management and Health.</p> <p>Business License staff have recently initiated limited evening enforcement in the Belmont Shore area, and the interdepartmental team is developing a specialized CRT configuration focused on conducting late-night operations in Belmont Shore. Staff anticipate being able to conduct a CRT operation in the first part of 2026.</p>
<p>Do we know where late night visitors are coming from? Can we do some surveys, like reading license plates or credit card names from the bars tabs, or maybe just asking people!</p>	<p>Staff do not currently have this information. License plate reading data available to the Police Department cannot be utilized for this purpose. Therefore, any such analysis would require additional staff time and/or resources.</p>

<p>There is only one bar licesnse on 2nd St in the Shore. The rest are restaurants. Some have conditions applied to them. How do we keep them restaurants and not night clubs? Is there a definition that can be monitored?</p>	<p>Currently there is a lack of enforcement mechanism or clear operating standards in the regulatory framework. That is part of why staff are recommending the creation of additional clarity and enforcement tools through a model similar to the DDED. It should be noted that there are requirements associated with Entertainment Permits to ensure businesses are not moving away from the restauarant operations. Commercial Code Enforcrcement operates primarily on a complaint based system, meaning that most of our investigations start with a complaint. Please ensure that if you have concerns, you are submitting them to lbbiz@longbeach.gov, so that we may confirm operations are appropriate and compliant with the LBMC. ABC was consulted for this question, and they noted that the only way fo ABC to enforce restricting a location from operating as a night club later into the evening past their dinner service is if there are conditions implemented at the time of ABC licensing. They are not able to add conditions to an exisiting license. As long as they have an operating and stocked kitchen and provide meals during traditional "meal times", they are allowed to start to operate more similarly to a night club later in the night and on weekends. The receipts vs. alcohol sales would also have to be a condition, and isn't something that they enforce otherwise.</p>
<p>Is there a map of the city-owned parking lots, please? It seems they may be too far away to matter?</p>	<p>The City owns 6 parking lots in this area, from west to east they are: 183 Park Ave; lot south of 2nd St between Aronne and Granada; lot south of 2nd St between Granada and Nieto; 185 Covina Ave; lot south of 2nd St between Glendora and Pomona Ave; and 184 Santa Ana Ave</p>
<p>Will these slides be available?</p>	<p>The slides and meeting recording have been made available to everyone who RSVPed and can be found here: slides: https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbcd/media-library/documents/planning/late-night-belmont-shore-public-safety-plan and recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAvIMTHtwWE</p>

<p>Can someone detail how OFTEN these businesses are checked onsite for compliance on each aspect?</p>	<p>The Health Department conducts annual inspections of all establishments that serve food related products, including bars. For complaints related to business operations, land use approvals and building code concerns, enforcement is conducted based on complaints, so the frequency depends on how many and what types of complaints are received. ABC was consulted about this question and ABC staff noted that their Department is a state agency and their team covers a large area which included thousands of licenses. Since they operate in such a large area, they don't have any set schedules for inspections. However, they provide local law enforcement agencies with grant money so they can conduct the same inspections that we would do.</p>
<p>Page 17 - Tara, can the added specific conditions be made public, so we know what we can monitor and provide complaints when not followed?</p>	<p>The conditions are still being studied and developed. Once the recommendations are complete, there will be an ordinance which will be made public and there will be an option for public comment at that time.</p>
<p>One night, approximately two months ago, I was walking on 2nd street near Chase bank. There were several police officers near their parked cars. About 10 motorcyclists sped by with extremely loud exhaust pipes. I asked the officers why they weren't ticketed. One officer mentioned that motorcycles are exempt in Ca. and therefore can have a loud exhaust pipe and cannot be ticketed. This is incorrect. Can you talk about why the officers were misinformed?</p>	<p>In order for officers to issue citations for "loud pipes" officers must have show the sound exceeds 95 decibels, or the exhaust has be modified from the manufacturer in violation of 27150 of the vehicle code. Therefore, this is a challenging law to enforce on, particularly given that patrol officers do not carry decible readers.</p>
<p>This feels like a review of the City's December report. Nothing new of note here. Disappointing to have what we already knew read back to us. Does this honestly count as "community engagement"?</p>	<p>This meeting was one step in the engagement process. The purpose of this meeting was to share more details from staff's initial analysis, answer clarifying questions during and after the meeting, and to encourage people to provide input using the online form so that it can be shared with staff doing research and eventually be shared iwth the City council who are deicsion makers.</p>

<p>ASR represented the \$ impact on the businesses on 2st street corridor. during the voluntary. Why did she not address?</p>	<p>This question appears to be asking for more details regarding the voluntary early closures of businesses from mid-November to mid-December. As detailed in the memo to Mayor and Council, the group of bars that typically operate past midnight voluntarily agreed to close earlier for a 30-day period, from mid-November to mid-December. Businesses that participated reported experiencing significant financial impacts, affecting not only the establishments themselves but also employees whose shifts had to be cut or truncated, as well as impacts to nearby businesses that rely on late-night foot traffic. One business reported estimated revenue declines of approximately 35 percent during the early closure period. During this time, businesses also implemented additional voluntary operating requirements and security measures in close coordination with the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD).</p>
<p>Other California cities, such as Ventura, fund dedicated alcohol enforcement staff including a patrol officer, through fees paid by alcohol establishments. Will Long Beach consider a similar fee -based enforcement model as part of its safety strategy ? If not, why not ?</p>	<p>The Ventura model is one of the models that staff is researching to be shared for consideration by the City Council. Fee changes must go through a series of analyses for consideration as to what fees can be charged, the individual and collective impact of taxes and fees, and how fees can be used. Additionally, it should be noted that Standard Condition B2 of the Downtown Dining and Entertainment District (DDED), a model which staff are recommending for customization for 2nd street, allows the City to recuperate the cost of enforcement when excessive police services are required as a result of any incident or nuisance that arises or is connected with a Permitte's operations. Therefore, this condition would give the city another important tool.</p>

<p>Given the City's repeated statements about limited resources and after-hours staffing challenges, what specific enforcement mechanisms are built into the proposed late -night permitting model to ensure compliance?</p>	<p>No model has yet been proposed, but staff are developing recommendations for consideration. The DDED model provides a more clear enforcement model than exists today, including standard conditions that apply to all operations and tiered conditions to be applied if an incident connected to the operation occurs. Additionally, the City's has created a Mobile Business Program in the Department of Financial Management to help increase the capacity not only for industry engagement and education, but also to address enforcement capacity concerns. This program will assist in generating more capacity for enforcement for sidewalk vendors and food trucks, as well as relieve the existing staff to allow for more of the traditional Commercial Code Enforcement investigatory duties.</p>
<p>Will the Health Department finally be supported to enforce on the evenings and weekends? We @PartakeCollective support our street food vendors and are happy to help any vendor that is required to be licensed and permitted in our great City of Long Beach. Supporting licensed Street Food Vendors access to clean water and refuse is VERY important. We are the only approved street food vendor cart storage facility in the City of Long Beach, we're happy to be a partner in the solution, which is enforcement.</p>	<p>SB946 limits how cities can regulate sidewalk vending, specifically prohibiting enforcement based on concerns like economic competition or community animus. The law also decriminalized sidewalk vending, meaning enforcement is limited to administrative remedies rather than criminal penalties. Two departments handle enforcement for sidewalk vending: The Business Services Bureau (Financial Management Department) enforces the Sidewalk Vending Ordinance and the Health Department enforces the California State Health and Safety Code related to food safety. For more complex enforcement situations - such as food or equipment disposal - a Complaint Response Team (CRT) is initiated, collaborating across multiple departments, including the Safety Office, Police Department, and Public Works alongside Financial Management and Health. Business License staff have recently initiated limited evening enforcement in the Belmont Shore area, and the interdepartmental team is developing a specialized CRT configuration focused on conducting late-night operations in Belmont Shore. Staff anticipate being able to conduct a CRT operation in the first part of 2026.</p>

<p>What is ABCs definition of a restaurant?</p>	<p>ABC was consulted about this question and they noted that ABC's website defines restaurants under Business and Professions Code Section 23038, which reads as follows: "Bona fide public eating place" means a place which is regularly and in a bona fide manner used and kept open for the serving of meals to guests for compensation and which has suitable kitchen facilities connected therewith, containing conveniences for cooking and an assortment of foods which may be required for ordinary meals, the kitchen of which must be kept in a sanitary condition with the proper amount of refrigeration for keeping of food on said premises and must comply with all the regulations of the local department of health.</p> <p>"Meals" means the usual assortment of foods commonly ordered at various hours of the day; the service of such food and victuals only as sandwiches or salads shall not be deemed a compliance with this requirement. "Guests" shall mean persons who, during the hours when meals are regularly served therein, come to a bona fide public eating place for the purpose of obtaining, and actually order and obtain at such time, in good faith, a meal therein. Nothing in this section, however, shall be construed to require that any food be sold or purchased with any beverage.</p>
<p>I'm wondering what bussinesses' next steps are?</p>	<p>City staff have met twice with businesses that operate after midnight. The businesses have been apprised of staff's intention to customize the DDED model to 2nd street. The businesses have expressed an eagerness and intent to work with both the city and community on this issue.</p>
<p>What about privately owned parking lots?</p>	<p>Public Works has no oversight over privately owned parking lots. The violation of criminal codes could still be enforced on private property as appropriate.</p>
<p>How many businesses on 2nd St operate after midnight? Has this number changed?</p>	<p>City staff are aware of six businesses that operate after midnight which is not a major change from past years. Many years ago, more businesses operated late at night.</p>

<p>What changes are the 4 business doing to be good neighbors? For example Panama Joes celebrated not having to close early by having drink specials after midnight.</p>	<p>Businesses offered voluntary additional procedures in November related to guest entry security, staff training, quieting of operations later at night, lighting and signage improvements, and closer coordination across businesses.</p>
<p>Tara, if the residents don't know what the conditions are, how can they complain. It can't be the only compliance.</p>	<p>As currently contemplated by staff, standard conditions will be required for all businesses selling alcohol late at night that are clear in the Long Beach Municipal Code, just like how the DDED is structured.</p>
<p>For context: historically, when nightlife venues closed, music stopped, lights came up, and people dispersed.</p> <p>Recently, after venues close, we're seeing activity shift into the public right-of-way, including open container/public drinking, loud amplified music, illegal or unpermitted vendors, loitering, and disturbances.</p> <p>Question: What is the City's enforcement plan and toolset on 2nd Street? Please specify (1) who responds and which department is the lead by violation type (LBPD, Code Enforcement, Health, Business Licensing), (2) what specific authorities/ordinances will be used, and (3) the escalation ladder from first contact and warning to citation, confiscation/seizure, and arrest, including who coordinates the response on scene.</p>	<p>Loud disturbances are handled by the police department, as is public intoxication. An officer must witness the open container, and for a disturbing the peace citation to be issued (whether for loud talking, music, etc) officers will need a private person's arrest, as they cannot be victims per state statute. Officers are aware of issues, and will attempt address them as they are observed, however, we do rely on the public to call the non-emergency number when they observe these types of things going on.</p> <p>SB946 limits how cities can regulate sidewalk vending, specifically prohibiting enforcement based on concerns like economic competition or community animus. The law also decriminalized sidewalk vending, meaning enforcement is limited to administrative remedies rather than criminal penalties. Two departments handle enforcement for sidewalk vending: The Business Services Bureau (Financial Management Department) enforces the Sidewalk Vending Ordinance and the Health Department enforces the California State Health and Safety Code related to food safety. For more complex enforcement situations - such as food or equipment disposal - a Complaint Response Team (CRT) is initiated, collaborating across multiple departments, including the Safety Office, Police Department, and Public Works alongside Financial Management and Health. Business License staff have recently initiated limited evening enforcement in the Belmont Shore area, and the interdepartmental team is developing a specialized CRT configuration focused on conducting late-night operations in Belmont Shore. Staff anticipate being able to conduct a CRT operation in the first part of 2026.</p>

<p>Example, Ent licenses contain noise limits. Does the public know this?</p>	<p>Entertainment Permits are issued utilizing a public process and all documents are available for the public to obtain. City Council authorizes each Entertainment Permit at a public hearing . Each permit's conditions are provided along with the agenda item, and can be searched on the City Clerk's website: https://www.longbeach.gov/cityclerk/. Additional questions and concerns can be addressed to the Business Services Bureau at lbbiz@longbeach.gov.</p>
<p>What is being done to address 1) Drinking in parking lots and on the side streets (i.e., public drinking) 2) Street vendors selling illegally on 2nd Street?</p>	<p>See responses above; it is also helpful to note that Drinking in public must be witnessed by the officer in order to issue a citation. Officers are aware these things are occurring, and are requested to drive the rear parking lots and nearby streets when assigned to 2nd Street through the overtime or their normal shifts as availability permits.</p>
<p>Are there different levels of entertainment license such as dj, live music and or club level. What levels are on 2nd St?</p>	<p>There are different types of entertainment permits, typically related to with or without dancing and with or without alcohol. Night Clubs require additional scrutiny and zoning administration review.</p>
<p>Charging for parking until 2am would solve a lot of the problems. But it doesn't matter if it's not enforced. What are the hours of parking enforcement?</p>	<p>The city has a 24 hour parking enforcement operation.</p>
<p>Why don't officers carry this device to monitor the decibel?</p>	<p>This is an issue of cost, access to equipment and area of focus. More information about the Noise Control Program in the City's Health Dept can be found at https://www.longbeach.gov/health/inspections-and-reporting/reporting/noise-monitoring/ (anything to add/change?)</p>
<p>Does the city keep a record of complaints against businesses and are these statistics made available to the public?</p>	<p>Yes, complaints are logged, but there are data challenges. The city is currently in the process of replacing its Enterprise Land Management System. The previous system does not allow for the totality of complaints to be tracked and reported. Additional functionality in the new system will allow for additional data collection and reporting.</p>

<p>What about when with the ABC license when they stop food and only serve drinks only after 10pm?</p>	<p>City staff have learned from ABC that this is permissible under their regulations unless specific conditions were imposed on the location at the time an ABC license was granted. Therefore, any restrictions would need to come from the local level through conditions on use permits, entertainment permits, or through a blanket change that can be applied through amendments to Title 5 of the LBMC</p>
<p>Compliance program should be put in place to hold businesses accountable to their conditions</p>	<p>The City's Commercial Code Enforcement Team does investigate complaints and take enforcement action. The new ordinance proposed would allow for the establishment of new conditions to be enforced. As referenced, many of the existing operations are serving alcohol based on approvals made many years ago, and the businesses are not required to follow the same rules as if the business was approved today. The new proposed ordinance in Title 5 would allow for universal conditions to be applied for businesses serving alcohol, and have additional conditions put in place depending on the hours of service.</p>
<p>Can the city enforce a curfew for the bars? This made a huge difference in December.</p>	<p>A code amendment would be needed to require earlier closure of all businesses. Staff are currently considering a tiered model through which earlier closure and additional standards could be imposed if and when a series of incidents and/or nuisance issues warrant such an action. This is similar to how the DDED model is structured.</p>
<p>Did you include the homicide which occurred in the Granada parking lot in your report?</p>	<p>Yes, that data was included.</p>

<p>Can you post the phone numbers/email s posted in the chat box?</p>	<p>The Business License Division is located in City Hall. City of Long Beach 411 W. Ocean Boulevard Long Beach, CA 90802 COUNTER HOURS: Monday, Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>PHONE HOURS: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Phone number: (562) 570-6211 Fax number: (562) 499-1097 Email: LBBIZ@longbeach.gov</p>
<p>What were the calls for service/citations during the voluntary early closure compared to the same time period the year before</p>	<p>This analysis has not been completed.</p>
<p>Can the city provide a mechanism that is acceptable to measure noise decibles that would stick?</p>	<p>Noise complaint measurement can be challenging, and only certain types of equipment can be used to formallly measure and enforce related to noise complaints. Staff understand the concern and are considering options to recommend to the City Council.</p>
<p>What about sercurity at those 4 locations? When can that be implemented?</p>	<p>Voluntary security measures are in place at the 4 locations, and staff anticipate recommending clear security requiremetns as part of the proposed model.</p>

<p>How is it that violent crime went up due to increased police presence but not the other types of nuisance issues?</p>	<p>There are many contributing factors, including an officer observing fights or arriving to a reported incident before victims/suspects have time to leave the area. As stated previously, other nuisance issues may not be observed by the officer. You can view data on our public crime dashboard for more details. https://www.longbeach.gov/police/crime-info/crime-statistics/</p>
<p>Why are there no standard conditions or regs applied to all the bars/restaurants as a baseline set of standards?</p>	<p>Businesses are required to comply with all requirements in Title 5 of the Long Beach Municipal Code. There is a mechanism to apply standard conditions similar to what the community has asked about in this case. That is found in section 5.72.200 of the Long Beach Municipal Code (Downtown Dining and Entertainment District), which includes standard conditions for all businesses in the DDED that serve alcohol or provide entertainment later at night. At this time, staff intend to recommend a similar approach for 2nd Street in Belmont Shore so that standard conditions could be imposed.</p>