



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: July 18, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Public Safety Committee Chair Suzie Price

Subject: **Report on July 13, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting**

The Public Safety Committee met on July 13, 2017. In addition to approving the minutes of the March 7, 2017 Public Safety Meeting the following reports were given by City staff:

Agenda Item #2: Staff report on Police Department Quality of Life Officers

There are two Quality of Life officers who were taken from calls for service and assigned to duties including: homeless outreach, quality of life issues, and connecting homeless people with services. Through the efforts of Quality of Life officers, they:

- Made contact with 624 persons experiencing homelessness
- Assisted with temporary housing for 225 people
- Helped connect 64 people, including 15 veterans with permanent housing
- Provided 710 referrals for service
- Transported nearly 700 people to the Multi Service Center, Department of Mental health, the Long Beach Rescue Mission, and Local Area Hospitals.
- Gave basic supplies to 449 people experiencing homelessness
- Conducted 130 mental health evaluations.
- Made 54 arrests
- Filed 116 crime reports
- Assisted patrol officers on 588 calls for service
- Attended 20 community meetings

- Participated in 60 neighborhood cleanups
- 80 other agency assistances

Agenda Item #3: Staff Report on Misdemeanor Arrests for Quality of Life Offenses

Commonly encountered incidents related to residential quality of life include:

- Public Consumption: 262 incidents in FY17. No data for FY16
- Urination or Defecation in Public: 100 incidents in FY17. 148 incidents in FY16
= reduction by 33%
- Sleeping/Camping in Public: 3 incidents in FY17. 4 incidents in FY16
= reduction by 29%
- Indecent Exposure: 59 incidents in FY17. 49 incidents in FY16
= increase by 20%
- Trespassing: 32 incidents in FY17. 40 incidents in FY16
= reduction by 11%
- Disorderly Conduct- Public Intoxication: 361 incidents FY17. 457 incidents FY16
= reduction by 26.5%

Agenda Item #4: Staff Report on Feasibility of Safe Ride Program

Long Beach Police Department requested an opportunity to further study the program and come back with a comprehensive report and recommendation.

Agenda Item #5: Recommendation to request Police and Fire to Consider Use of Electronic Road Flares

The Public Safety Committee requested the feasibility of Long Beach Police Department and Long Beach Fire Department using electronic road flares in place of traditional road flares. The Fire Department explained that they do not usually use flares, but instead use cones and other apparatus to protect themselves from passing cars and traffic hazards, but are open to considering these electronic flares as part of their future operational procedures. The Police Department is also open to exploring this option for their needs.

Agenda Item #6: Staff Report on Police and Fire Department Activity Related to the 4th of July

In anticipation of the 4th of July holiday and the associated illegal fireworks use, large numbers of fireworks were confiscated. In one single instance prior to the 4th of July 7,000 lbs of high powered fireworks were confiscated. This seizure also included the recovery of narcotics, firearms, ammunition, and cash.

Leading up to July 4th there were over 2,400 calls for service which will be part of their evaluation in developing improvements to Police Department efforts in the future.

The Fire Department led an education effort this year that included a fireworks committee, as well as proactively working with the Police Department and council offices to minimize the negative impacts of fireworks in our communities. This education focus also took the shape of press releases, community messaging in a number of languages, social media, electronic road signage, distribution of materials by Lifeguards and CERT volunteers, magnetic signage was included on all Fire Department units stating that all fireworks are illegal, and all block party permits emphasized the illegality of fireworks.

The 4th of July always yields an increase in calls for service, not just limited to fireworks issues but in all areas of calls. This year there were:

- 696 calls for service between July 1 – July 4
- Fire Department responded to 13 structure fires, and 28 fire alarms
- 170 calls for service were made to the Fire Department between July 1- July 4
- Between July 1 – July 4 there were 11 block party inspections
- On July 4 there were 45 block party inspections
- There were 5 citations for possession of illegal fireworks
- No major injuries occurred
- Statewide reports of firework use were higher than in previous years

Ultimately, it was explained that personal responsibility is the most important factor when dealing with firework usage. Each individual must take care to ensure they are not putting themselves or others in danger.

CC: Patrick West, City Manager
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