

Notes by Corliss Lee – reviewed with corrections by Ana Rios 2/23/21

Chad Ellis commander east Long Beach – newly assigned in late 2020

[New East Division Long Beach police commander a chip off the old chief – Press Telegram](#)

1st Speaker: Chief Luna

There has been a crime increase in level 1 crimes. It may be tied into the pandemic and several other factors.

Since end of May – to end of 2020, police handled 138 protests.

During the election –there was a level of fear in our community; stores boarding up; schools closing; unemployment rate skyrocketing; 46,000 prisoners released in LA county and Calif Dept of Corrections released 55000 prisoners due to Covid.

Without jobs, what do people do? The unemployment rate impacts crime.

Changes: Priority 3 calls will be handled by non-police personnel -- this is done in other cities.

Criminal justice and social justice were both at the forefront this last year.

We have a new DA in LA County, George Gascon, who came in with a platform of reforming the DA's office.

Chief Luna will share how the whole public safety network is working... this includes judges, community policing, etc. There is a move toward not putting people in jail that have not done a violent crime.

Long Beach 2021 Budget: economic situation - police took most of the budget reductions in 2021. Going into this year with 175k less person hours. That will impact how things work.

QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES:

Q: how to get signs about fireworks Chief Luna: LBPd confiscated thousands of pounds of fireworks this last year.

DC Lewis: Development Services makes the signs and distributes them to various depts. Some come to police. Ana Maria Rios assists the department in getting them distributed to groups in the East Division. It is challenging to actually catch someone doing it. Calls that come in anonymously are hard to deal with. If you know who the source is of the fireworks, that is helpful.

Q: National night out – will it take place this year? Ana: I was advised that we applied for it but we are not sure what it will look like due to COVID.

Q: Can you outline high priority changes in the Police Dept you brought up at city council?

Carotid restraint was suspended before last year; training has been modified; re-did the process for no knock warrants; community liaison officer is assigned to go along and talk to neighborhood folks to help them understand the action being taken; re-doing use of force policy; office of constitutional policing put together as part of the reform – making sure we are compliant with all recent laws and legislation; goal is to become the best police dept in the country.

Speaker 2 Deputy Chief Michael Lewis

[COMMANDER MICHAEL A. LEWIS APPOINTED DEPUTY CHIEF \(longbeach.gov\)](#)

Deputy Chief Lewis talking points: go to [Long Beach Police Dept website](#). You can see crime stats reported to DOJ; press releases; BIODs; crime mapping software. There are social media sites you can access to connect with the police on [Instagram](#), [facebook](#) and [twitter](#); get on East Division email list (contact AnaMaria.Rios@longbeach.gov).

Call the police if you see something suspicious - identify yourself. Indicate if you would like contact with the officer. If you are not happy with the service – ask to speak with a supervisor. They will have a sergeant contact you.

ATTENDEE QUESTIONS

Q: Please status outcomes of Memorial Day Weekend A) There are multiple prosecutions underway relating to looting and crimes that occurred. A task force worked the issue. See press releases for more info. Long Beach aggressively pursued leads on those that broke the law.

Q: How does a person deal with the homeless trespassing on their property?

A. Contact the communication center to have an officer dispatched. If effectuating an arrest, the dispatched officer will ask you to complete a PPA form (private persons arrest).

Q. How does a person deal with trespassing on commercial property? A. Contact the communication center to have an officer dispatched. The responding officer will request the business owner/manager sign a PPA form.

For business/commercial after-hours, it is recommended that property owners/ managers have a No Trespassing form on file and corresponding signage up where it is visible. Standing No Trespassing Order program (forms and signage) are more often used for:

- 1) Commercial properties/businesses because they generally have operating hours followed by block of time where they are closed for business.
- 2) Apartment buildings where there are communal areas (ie. laundry rooms, courtyards, pool areas).
 - The No Trespassing Order forms serve as a Private Person's Arrest form that remains on file for one year and must be renewed annually.
 - This allows for an officer to respond to a "call for service" to deal with a trespasser without needing to find the property owner or business manager to sign a PPA form because one is already on file.

If you'd like more information on the Standing No Trespassing Program, you can contact officer Brendan Murphy by emailing him at Brendan.Murphy@longbeach.gov or by using the general email LBPDEast@longbeach.gov.

Q: Should we report graffiti with GOLONGBEACH Apps? Yes; once reported, you can also send the information to LBPDEast@longbeach.gov.

Q: What can be done about the homeless camping on sidewalks? It is technically lawful for a person to be on a sidewalk if you can get a wheelchair past them. We cannot enforce "no camping" violation unless we have an open bed and follow the protocol of offering them services.

Speaker 3 Eastside Commander Chad Ellis highlighted the topics below:

- 1) **Crime trends in East Division:** vehicle related thefts – catalytic converters – tail gates - are the biggest issue in East Division. [The other 3 divisions would talk about violent crime]. People leave things in their vehicles (phones, computers) and cars are broken into. **LOCK YOUR CARS AT NIGHT.**
 - a. catalytic converters (there is a device that slows thieves down that you can buy)
 - b. tail gates (can get specific locks)
 - c. best to keep your car in the garage if you can or in a well lit parking spot
- 2) **Safe streets funding;** East Div gets small budget. Can direct some proactive action by funding more night time graveyard hours, bringing in officers to impact theft issues. These funds help create a directed enforcement team on theft issues.
- 3) **LIGHT IT UP LOCK IT UP** – used by Neighborhood Watch Groups – really does work. Park in a place that is well lit. Be sure things are locked up.
- 4) **Complaint: “I called and the police didn’t do anything.”** That is almost never the case. There can be delays in the response. Sometimes the person doesn’t see the officer arrive. Ask for contact with the officers when they are out there. If you need it to be anonymous, you can do that. **If you are reporting a crime, be willing to be a victim or a witness. Let them know you want them to file a police report. Please spread the word on this.**
- 5) **Allocating resources:** based on data and need. When officers and hours are being assigned, it comes down to calls for service and police reports. If it isn’t documented, it doesn’t get added into the mix when making staffing decisions and where officers are allocated. We need to make sure we get our fair share of the resources. Tell the community to make the call when there is a threat or crime and ask for a police report.
- 6) **Homelessness:** The message received by outcome of elections etc. is the public does not want homelessness to be handled as a criminal matter. It is a health issue – societal issue. Health Dept is the lead on this issue.
- 7) **Staffing issue this year and next:** all of our *professional staff* throughout the city took a 10% paycut in form of a 1-day furlough once every 2 weeks. That paycut/furlough did not affect sworn police and fire officers. However, this last year, we lost 50 positions of sworn officers (went from 850 to 800). There needs to be some recognition within the city about the affects of COVID etc. on budget. **Please put this information out there.**
- 8) **Community engagement:** this was a difficult year to be a police officer. They are asking police to talk with community when they are out on a call. Humanize themselves with the people in the neighborhoods.

Ana Maria Rios – adjourned meeting 6pm

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