



CITY OF LONG BEACH

C-30

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, California 90802

April 3, 2007

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
CALIFORNIA

RECOMMENDATION:

To receive and file the Public Safety Advisory Commission Annual Report for 2006.

DISCUSSION

Attached for your review is the 2006 Annual Report of the Public Safety Advisory Commission of the City of Long Beach as unanimously approved at its meeting of February 14, 2007.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT HILDEBRAND, CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF LONG BEACH

:RH
Attachment

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

2006 ANNUAL REPORT
January 2006 through December 2006

In accordance with the City of Long Beach Municipal Code, Section 2.18.090, the Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) is submitting this Annual Report. This report covers the period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

COMMISSION OBJECTIVES

The Public Safety Advisory Commission was established on June 19, 1984 through City Ordinance No. C-6069 and has 13 Commissioners. The Ordinance charges the Commission with making "advisory policy recommendations to the City Council on public safety issues, to serve as a forum for community discussion of these public safety issues, and to encourage input and participation from all sectors of the community." PSAC is limited to considering "public safety policy matters over which the City Council has control that are related to police service."

Ordinance No. C-6069 stipulates that the Public Safety Advisory Commission shall place "specific emphasis" on the following: Neighborhood Watch Program, public safety awareness, traffic flow, community relations of the City's public safety department, and special projects, including those directed by the City Council.

The Public Safety Advisory Commission conducts its business in accordance with Chapters 2.18 (Advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees) and 2.52 (Public Safety Advisory Commission) of the Long Beach Municipal Code, and with applicable sections of the California Open Meeting Law.

MEETINGS AND MEMBERS ATTENDANCE RECORD

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the PSAC is held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Long Beach Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, CA. During 2006, the PSAC held nine (9) regular meetings. April and June were "dark" due to City elections and December due to the holidays.

STAFF

The Commission benefits from an excellent relationship with the Commission staff, who are dedicated to supporting the Commissioners in carrying out their responsibilities. During 2006, the staff has included:

Torben Beith, Commander, Long Beach Police Department
Bill Blair, Commander, Long Beach Police Department
Jerryl Soriano, City Clerk Specialist
Daisy Gomez, City Clerk Specialist

THE FOLLOWING IS A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION IN 2006 -

January – Regular meeting of January 11, 2006 –

After numerous presentations and two extra mid-month PSAC meetings from September through November 2005, the PSAC began a discussion of how to prepare a report to the City Council on the issue of methamphetamine use in Long Beach and related crime. They discussed how to summarize the information received from several presentations and what the recommendations to the Council might be. Some draft recommendations were suggested and Commissioner Whitcomb agreed to write up an initial draft report to be presented at the February meeting.

Also, the Commission voted unanimously to transmit the *Interim Status Report Regarding Public Safety Issues of the I-710 Expansion Project* to the City Council. This report committed the PSAC to monitoring the preparation of the project EIR/EIS and to report back to the Council and the City Manager at an appropriate future date with its comments on the safety issues addressed in the EIR/EIS.

February – Regular meeting of February 8, 2006 –

Commissioner Whitcomb distributed a first draft of the PSAC's report to the City Council entitled, *Report Regarding the Problems Associated with Methamphetamine Use in Long Beach and Related Crime*. Certain changes to the report were agreed upon by the Commissioners after a lengthy discussion. Commissioner Whitcomb agreed to incorporate the changes in the report and return at the March PSAC meeting for its final approval.

The PSAC was informed by Chair Kean that the Commission's report to the City Council regarding the I-710 Expansion Project had been received and filed by the Council at its February 7, 2006 meeting.

Under New Business, staff from the City's Tobacco Education Program in the Department of Health and Human Services informed the Commission that the City Council had referred the issues raised by the City's Tobacco Youth Purchase Survey to the PSAC for further study and recommendation on next steps. Peggy Preacely, Project Coordinator for the Tobacco Education Program provided an overview of her program and of the youth purchase survey.

After responding to Commissioner questions, staff was requested to return at the March PSAC meeting with an in depth presentation on the matter.

March – Regular meeting of March 8, 2006 –

On the issue of the Tobacco Youth Purchase Survey presentations were heard by the PSAC from the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach, from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office on their Tobacco Enforcement Program, and from City of Long Beach Tobacco Education Program staff. Assorted fact sheets and reports on sales of tobacco to youth were distributed. After discussion, the PSAC carried the matter over for further consideration at its next meeting.

Commissioner Whitcomb distributed a final copy of the *Report Regarding the Problems Associated with Methamphetamine Use in Long Beach and Related Crime*. After some

discussion, the report was unanimously approved and forwarded to the City Council's Public Safety Committee.

Under New Business, staff informed the Commission that the City Council had referred to PSAC the issue of looking at the feasibility of installing mobile and/or fixed cameras that will address motorist speeds in an attempt to curtail the number of accidents on our City streets. After some discussion, the item was laid over to the June PSAC meeting.

Finally, Chair Kean informed the Commission that Commissioner James Dok had resigned.

April – Regular meeting was "dark" due to the City election.

May – Regular meeting of May 10, 2006 –

Andrew Signey of St. Mary's Medical Center and Cheryl Barrit of the City's Department of Health and Human Services distributed and discussed a report that summarized the Community Forum on Methamphetamine held at St. Mary's Medical Center on March 22, 2006.

On the issue of the Tobacco Youth Purchase Survey referred to the PSAC for further study and recommendations on next steps, the Commission heard a presentation from the Director of Local Government Relations for the California Grocers Association. Also, the PSAC received input on the issue from five members of the public. The

Commission also received input from the City's Business Services Officer in the Department of Financial Management that any permit fees must be applied toward the administration of a tobacco retail permitting program.

After discussion, the Commission unanimously approved a motion recommending that the City Council develop a comprehensive and cost-effective Tobacco Retail Permit Program for all businesses that sell tobacco products in the City of Long Beach.

City Council Public Safety Committee meeting of May 30, 2006 –

Commission Vice Chair Hildebrand presented the *PSAC Report Regarding the Problems Associated with Methamphetamine Use in Long Beach and Related Crime* to the Public Safety Committee and responded to questions. The St. Mary's Medical Center report on their Community Forum on Methamphetamine was also given to the Committee by Mr. Signey and Ms. Barrit.

June – Regular meeting was “dark” due to the City election.

July – Regular meeting of July 12, 2006

Outgoing Commissioners Norvell, Biggart and Ginn were recognized for their years of service on the PSAC and each was presented with a commemorative clock provided by the Mayor's Office.

Election of officers was held for the coming year. Commissioner Hildebrand was elected Chair and Commissioner Ward was elected Vice Chair.

On the issue of the Tobacco Youth Purchase Survey referred to the PSAC for further study and recommendations on next steps, Commissioner Quintana presented a draft written report of the Commission's findings and adopted recommendation for approval. After some discussion, the report was unanimously approved and forwarded to the City Council.

On the issue of looking at the feasibility of installing mobile and/or fixed cameras that will address motorist speeds in an attempt to curtail the number of accidents on our City streets, the PSAC heard a presentation from Scott Elrod, Vice President of Sales for Nestor Traffic Systems on their mobile speed camera system. During discussion of this matter, questions were raised regarding the legality of such mobile camera systems in California. It was agreed to invite the City Attorney to the next meeting to address this issue.

The commission was advised by the Chair that the methamphetamine report had been presented to the Public Safety Committee at its meeting on May 30, 2006 and that it had been forwarded to the City Council. Also, staff informed the Commissioners that Commander Bill Blair would be the new support staff for the PSAC beginning in August.

August – Regular meeting of August 9, 2006 –

On the issue of looking at the feasibility of installing mobile and/or fixed cameras that will address motorist speeds in an attempt to curtail the number of accidents on our City streets, Police Department staff advised that Deputy City Attorney Anthony was unable to attend the meeting, but instead distributed a memo from him which provided his conclusion that California law does not authorize the use of photo radar for speed enforcement purposes.

After some discussion, a motion was unanimously approved to recommend to the City Council that further action on this matter by the PSAC be postponed until after the findings of a proposed state authorized study of such systems are available.

City Council meeting of August 15, 2006 –

Chair Hildebrand presented the Commission's methamphetamine report whose recommendations were approved and referred to the City Manager for implementation. At this meeting, the recommendations from the St. Mary's Medical Center report on their Community Forum were combined with the PSAC recommendations in the Council's overall implementation recommendation made to the City Manager.

September – Regular meeting of September 13, 2006 –

On the issue of looking at the feasibility of installing mobile and/or fixed cameras that will address motorist speeds in an attempt to curtail the number of accidents on our City streets, Chair Hildebrand distributed copies of a memorandum that had been forwarded to the City Council with the Commission's recommendation on this issue adopted at its August 2006 meeting.

City Council meeting of September 19, 2006 –

Commissioner Quintana presented the PSAC's report on the Tobacco Youth Survey and Tobacco Retail Permitting Program to the City Council. Council approved the Commission's recommendation and forwarded the matter to the City Manager for implementation.

October – Regular meeting of October 11, 2006 –

No major presentations or Commission actions occurred at this meeting.

November – Regular meeting of November 8, 2006 –

On the issue of looking at the feasibility of installing mobile and/or fixed cameras that will address motorist speeds in an attempt to curtail the number of accidents on our City streets, the Commission was informed by staff that the proposed radar speed enforcement study was not approved by the State Legislature. Therefore, the Deputy City Attorney's previous opinion on the matter that California law does not authorize the use of photo radar for speed enforcement purposes would stand and no further action on the matter would be considered by the Commission.

December – Regular meeting was "dark" due to the holidays.