

Opening statement by Samana: Respected Mayor and all city council members, on behalf of Long Beach Mentor Connection, I'd like to request our mentee-mentor pair, Danny Chambers and Jim Dohn to make this presentation.

Danny (start): Thank you, Mayor Garcia and City Council Members, for taking this moment to recognize the value of mentoring in our community. My name is Danny Chambers. I am a senior in high school and a mentee with Power 4 Youth. I am here with my mentor, Jim. Jim has been my mentor for 5 years. Mentoring has impacted me in many positive ways. It has given me hope to believe that despite the negativity in the world, there is a way out. It has made me believe that I could do things that others can do. I have learned many skills that I can apply in my life and with which I can also help others around me.

Jim (start): Along with us today, we have other mentoring programs and stakeholders from Long Beach Mentor Connection. They include Long Beach BLAST, Operation Jumpstart, Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters of LA County, 100 Black Men of Long Beach, and California Mentoring Partnership.

Youth mentoring in Long Beach is offered by a wide variety of programs throughout the city. From short-term academic help to long-term guidance, children and youth of all ages have the opportunity to gain the wisdom and support a mentor has to offer.

Like Danny shared, at the simplest level, mentoring is successful because it provides our youth with an adult to turn to. They have a guiding hand to help them in dealing with day-to-day challenges. At a more complex level, mentoring has a powerful effect that ultimately makes our communities stronger.

As we close, we'd like to ask everyone in the audience who are involved or represent mentoring to please stand up. (Pause 3 secs)

In solidarity, we thank each of you & Long Beach for your continued faith in mentoring. We hope you will continue to support and advocate for mentoring in your district and throughout the city. Please reach out to any of the programs if you have any questions or if you'd like to be a mentor. Thank you!

(Applause)



Mentoring guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter.

Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations.

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The Long Beach Mentor Connection is dedicated to promoting and strengthening mentoring services in Long Beach through a variety of program models including one-to-one, group, community and school/ site based, gender specific, as well as relationship and academically focused. Our partners include:

100 BLACK MEN OF LONG BEACH

100 Black Men of Long Beach addresses the social, emotional and cultural needs of children through group mentoring. Program focuses on building essential skills needed to become productive, contributing citizens. Ages served: 8-18 yrs old. <u>100blackmenlbc.com</u>

CATHOLIC BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF LA COUNTY

A community based mentoring program that provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Ages served: 7-15 yrs old. <u>catholicbigbrothers.org</u>

LONG BEACH BLAST

BLAST places college students as Academic Mentors to at-risk youth in already existing after school programs. Mentor-mentee teams engage in homework time, skill building activities, games, sports, and goal setting. Youth group served: K-12th grade. <u>Ibblast.org</u>

OPERATION JUMP START

Operation Jump Start helps low-resourced, high potential students get in, stay in, and graduate from a four-year college. We do this providing academic support, mentoring, and exposure to a broader world. Youth group served: 8th-12th grade. <u>operationiumpstart.org</u>

POWER 4 YOUTH

Academic mentoring program for at-risk students. Mentors help youth to do better in school by addressing the underlying issues keeping them from doing their best. Ages served: 11-16 yrs old. Student may join while in 6-8 grades. <u>power4youth.org</u>

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER LONG BEACH

The MBK Community Challenge is a call to action to cities, towns, counties and tribal nations to build and execute "cradle to college and career" plans around six crucial milestones for success. A key element to the success of building an MBK Community is mentoring. <u>longbeach.gov</u>















OUR MISSION



Long Beach Mentor Connection at the Mayoral Proclamation 2018 with Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach City Council.

The Long Beach Mentor Connection is a coalition of mentoring organizations and stakeholders advocating for the advancement of effective mentoring in Greater Long Beach.

The purpose of the organization is to encourage, develop, strengthen, and sustain quality mentoring programs.

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5199 E. P. C. Hwy. #209 Long Beach, CA 90804 (562) 443 - 2902

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