



To: Mayor Garcia, City Council members, City Manager, Tom Modica  
From: Black Lives Matter Long Beach  
Date: December 7, 2020  
Re: Item 65 on the City Council agenda

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This letter is in reference to a number of items on the December 8th City Council agenda.  
Item 65: Recommendation to request City Manager to report on enforcement for violations of the City's health order, specifically wearing a mask in public and in gatherings and explore more hand sanitation stations near playgrounds and other facilities that the City manages.

We recognize the utter importance of this issue, particularly in light of the direct impact on Black people in terms of health disparities and outcomes connected to COVID-19. However, we want to ensure that the Long Beach Police Department are not the entity to do this work. They are not appropriate for such a job, due to their documented violent nature and bias. Police brutality is a serious issue within all police departments, including the Long Beach Police Department. In addition, the LBPB were recently called out for racial profiling by the [Long Beach Post](#) for their biased treatment of Black bicyclists. Similarly, many officers have been seen publicly not wearing masks, particularly when COVID-19 has spread amongst the LBPB.

**Our demands are:**

- 1. that this work be done through the Department of Health and Human Services; and**
- 2. allocate funding for paid positions by community members.**

Instead of negative interactions with LBPB, these demands allow for engagement of trained community advocates to interact with residents that are in need. Community workers should be given masks to distribute to folks who may be in violation of the health ordinance. It is essential that we make this about accountability, not punishment.

Similarly, we have concerns about excessive fines, further impacting people already affected by the economic impacts of this pandemic. Those violating the health orders, such as some houseless individuals are doing it due to a lack of access.

We understand the need to clamp down on those not wearing face masks, but fines are not effective, they only allow for future discrimination against Black and other communities of color.

Signed,  
Black Lives Matter Long Beach