

[DRAFT]

Long Beach

Be SAFE

Summer
Violence
Reduction
Strategy &
Youth
Development
Initiative

Formally known as Summer Night Lights

**Transforming Neighborhood Conditions for Youth
& Families to Live, Thrive, and Be Healthy**

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Introduction and Background:

Since 2010, Centro C.H.A has supported the strategic direction of the Long Beach Violence Prevention Coalition to convene systems and community leaders around a "collective impact framework" focused on reducing violence, supporting positive youth development, and develop a set of shared principles and best practices across sectors and organizations.

One key best practice to emerge from the Long Beach Violence Prevention Coalition has been a focus on aligning a wide range of systems leaders and community partners around a strategic summer violence reduction strategy. Leadership, workforce and economic development and summer employment for youth and families in Central Long Beach has been the key focus of the Long Beach Violence Prevention Coalition with the goal of improving environmental conditions and health outcomes for vulnerable youth in Long Beach.

Our collaborative has demonstrated success in areas of reducing overall crime and violence in Neighborhoods where Be SAFE is offered by nearly half. The Long Beach VPC has also been instrumental in increasing summer employment opportunities for youth generating nearly 200 jobs over the recent summers(2010-2013).

Summer Safety Strategy like Be SAFE, Summer Night Lights, and Parks After Dark has become a national model, implemented first ever in the City of Los Angeles under the direction of former Mayor Antonio Villaragosa known as Summer Night Lights through the Mayor's Gang Reduction Youth Development Initiative.

Long Beach Be SAFE Initiative (formally known as LB Summer Night Lights) offers communities in Long Beach solutions to prevent violence that includes a comprehensive approach to address broader environmental, and systems-level issues to produce a more effective strategy that builds on the shared strengths of organizations, and service providers concerned with preventing violence, and preventing chronic disease. Be SAFE hones in on the summer months when young people are particularly vulnerable, and builds on the public health approach to preventing violence. Instead of simply 'treating' violence after the fact, one arrest at a time, this approach focuses on what causes violence: it engages youth to create new opportunities for leadership and economic opportunity, and dismantles barriers to peaceful streets and connected neighbors. This initiative gives youth across the city of Long Beach- specifically youth between the ages of 16 and 24 - concrete tools that will offer opportunities instead of arrests. Youth in participating Be SAFE programs will be able to participate in job readiness, arts, music, community service and physical activity programs.

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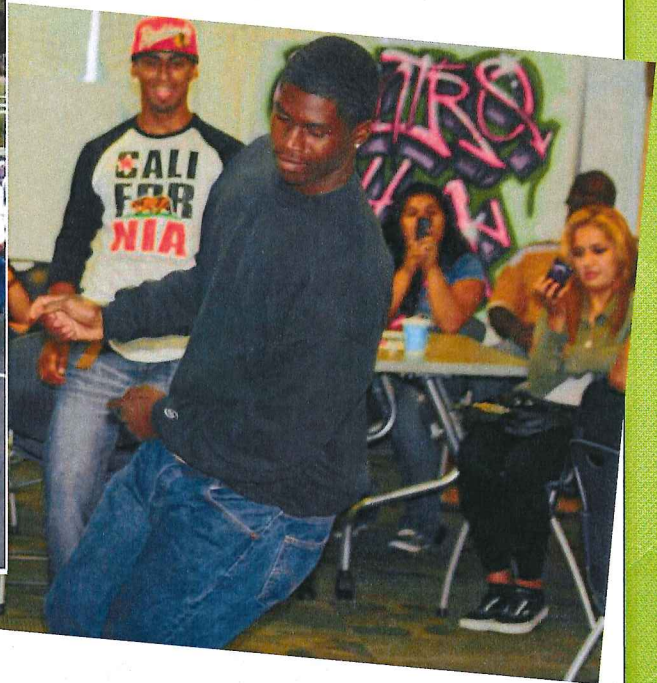
*Be Safe Initiative is funded in part by The City of Long Beach, The California Endowment, Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, Long Beach GRIP Project, Latino Coalition WAGEES Project, and California Dept. of Education Summer Food Snack Program

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Building Stronger Communities



46% of overall youth participants took part in 1 or more hours of physical activity

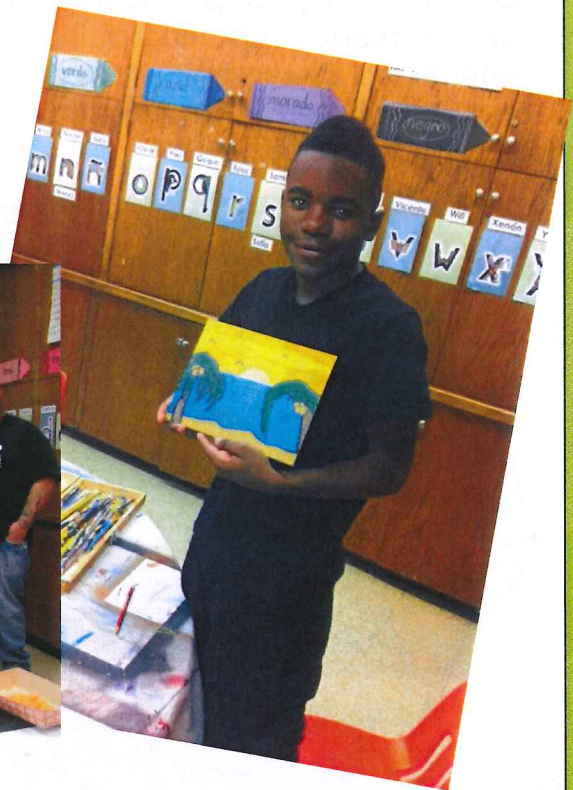
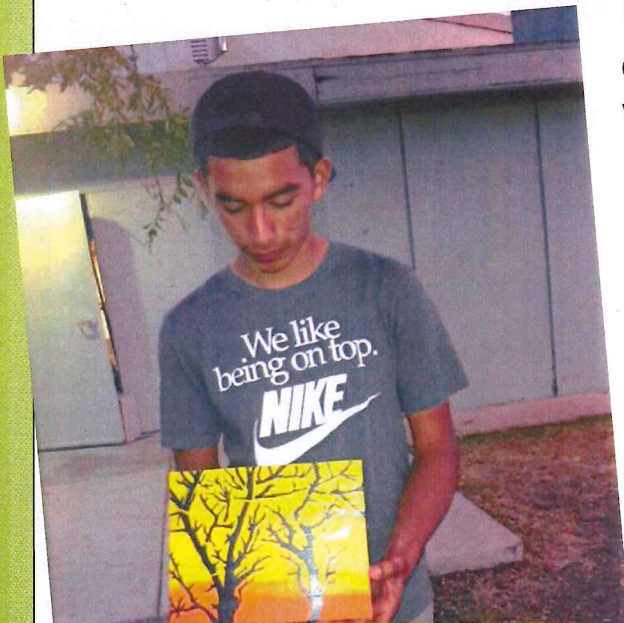


Be SAFE is made up of a 5 point strategy that has been proven effective to reduce violence through cross sector collaboration. Our approach is key to building stronger and healthier communities through various parks and recreation services, summer youth employment for disadvantaged youth, Adult Street Intervention workers trained in promoting peace and resolving community conflicts, healthy snack program, and various social and health education programs and services.

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Building on the Talents of Boys and Men of Color to Reduce Violence

46% reduction in violent crimes in 2012 in the Drake Park Neighborhood

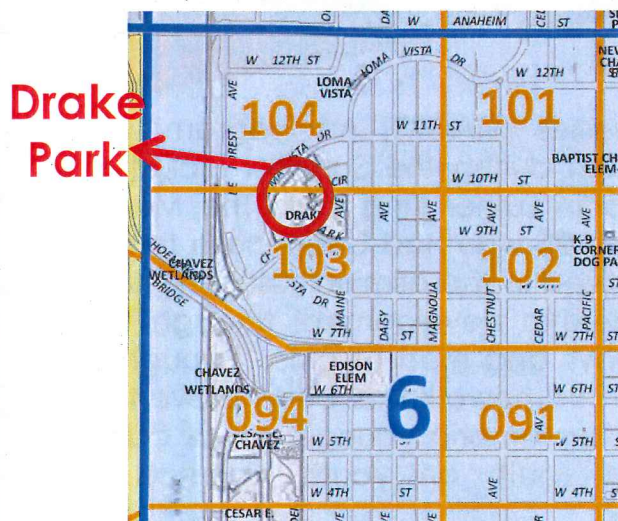
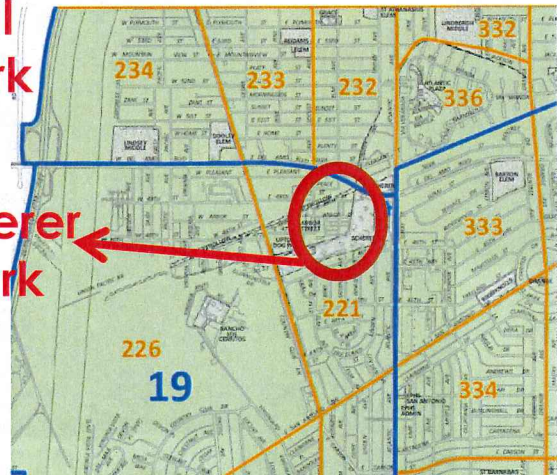
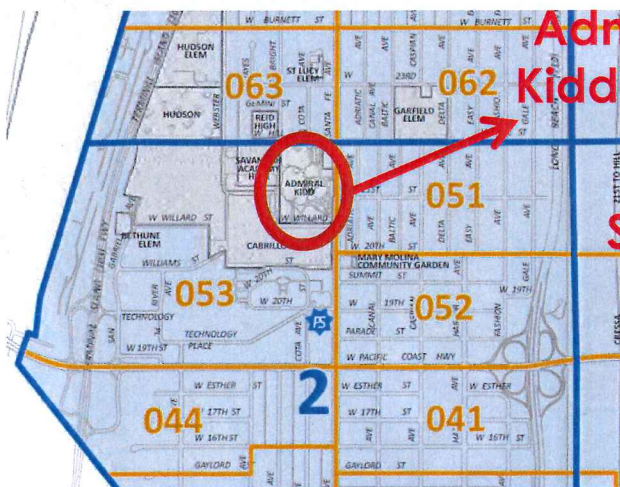
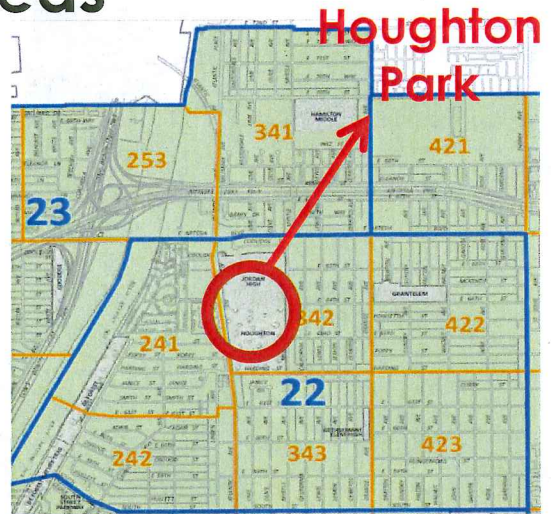


Men Achieving Goals in Their Communities (MAGIC) Art Program was offered at three park sites in Long Beach during the Summer including Admiral Kidd Park, Drake Park, and Martin Luther King Park. The Magic Program targets young men ages 15 and 25 who had been close to the streets, influenced by gangs and or involved in the criminal justice system to offer restorative practices and leadership development through the Arts. Harnessing the talents of young boys and men of color through a gender focused and popular education framework has been proven to foster wellness and personal transformation among young men of color, and reduce incidents of gang and youth on youth violence in neighborhoods most affected by poverty

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2013 Be Safe Target Areas

In 2013 Be Safe expanded to 5 Park Sites including Admiral Kidd Park (Police Beat 2), Drake Park (Police Beat 6) Houghton Park (Police Beats 22 & 23), Scherer Park (Police Beat 19) and Martin Luther King Park (Police Beat 5). LYPD Crime Stat Data was lifted from multiple police reporting districts within each police beat. Data used from each reporting district was determined by proximity from park site and lack of green space within a geographic area.



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2010-2013 Be SAFE Crime Stats Success by the Numbers

- Overall **20%** reduction in aggravated assaults between 2010-2013*
- In 2012 Be SAFE reported **ZERO** homicides during the summer months at all Be SAFE sites combined compared to a total of 10 homicides reported city-wide during July and August of 2012
- **50%** reduction in reported homicides city-wide in 2013 compared to summer 2012*
- **64%** reduction in overall Part 1 violent crimes compared to 2012 summer* (Not including Houghton Park & Scherer Park)
- In 2013 Be SAFE sites combined made up less than **10%** of the City's total reported violent crimes against persons.* (Not including Houghton & Scherer Park)

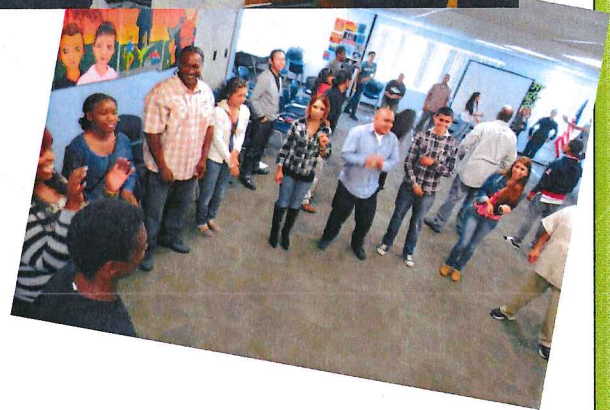
***Crime stats reported are from LBPD Crime Stats during summer period between July and August 2011-2013**

2011-2013 Success by the Numbers Continued...



Three summers combined (2011-2013), Be SAFE served over **90,400** healthy meals and Snacks.

Trained over **250** residents, youth, Police Officers, Community Based Organizations, and Stakeholders on the public health approach to reduce violence, provided by The Advancement Project Urban Peace Academy



Generated over **200** summer jobs for disadvantage youth ages 16-24 years old

Expanding Our Efforts to North Long Beach



Photo Caption: (Top Left) Men Making a Change and 8th District Councilman Al Austin and 9th District Councilman Steven Neil at "Brighter Future Peace Jam" at Houghton Park



BE SAFE reported a **36%** decrease in violent crimes at Scherer Park

In 2013 the Long Beach Violence Prevention Coalition approached The California Endowment to request funding support to continue building upon the success of the Long Beach Summer Night Lights (SNL) Initiative. But the challenge of funding to support SNL fully posed a threat to keep the initiative alive. In May of 2013 City Council approved allocation of 10% of one-time oil surplus funds to support summer park recreation programming for youth. This marked a new partnership between the LB VPC and Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, Marine to join forces and keep SNL running strong under the new name Be SAFE. This collaboration proved to be successful as Be SAFE expanded from 3 parks sites in Central Long Beach to 5 including Houghton Park and Scherer Park under the leadership of Long Beach Community Action Partnership, Men Making a Change. Overall the program reduced the number of incidents of violent related crimes, and brought much needed resources to two park neighborhoods that lacked services for youth development.

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Acknowledgements

- City of Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster
- City of Long Beach 1st District Councilman (Vice Mayor) Robert Garcia
- City of Long Beach 3rd District Councilman Gary DeLong
- City of Long Beach 6th District Councilman Dee Andrews
- City of Long Beach 7th District Councilman James Johnson
- City of Long Beach 8th District Councilman Al Austin
- City of Long Beach 9th District Councilman Steven Neal
- Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine
 - Long Beach Police Department (LBPD)
 - Long Beach Fire Department
 - Long Beach Public Library
 - Pacific Gateway (PGWIN)
 - Long Beach Health Department
 - Port of Long Beach
 - CA Department of Education Summer Food Program
 - Los Angeles County Gang & Violence Reduction Initiative
 - City Of Los Angeles GRYD Office
 - Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach GRIP Project
 - Latino Coalition WAGEES Project
 - Beach Initiative
 - Josephine S Gumbiner Foundation
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - Orange County Credit Union
 - Advancement Project
 - Boys & Girls Club of Greater Long Beach
- Community Partners Council (CPC)
- Long Beach Community Action Partnership
- Families in Good Health- Men With Meaningful Messages (EM3)
- Victory Outreach
- MAGIC Program
- Women Shelter of Long Beach
- YWCA
- Interval House
- YMCA Of Greater Long Beach
- M&I Youth and Family Services
- DeVry University of Long Beach
- United Cambodian Association
- Cambodian Association of America
- Danza Azteca
- Queens Historical Society
- Jubilee Consortium
- Helpline Youth Counseling
- Downtown Associated Youth Services Network (DAYS)/ Urban Community Outreach (UCO)
- Safe Moves
- All of Us or None
- Peace Garden Committee
- CSULB-Students of Social Work
- Los Cerritos Wetlands Trust
- Olive Crest
- UCLA Breathe Mobile
- Rethinking Greater Long Beach
- Long Beach Shakespeare Company
- POWER 106 Radio Station