



PRESS RELEASE

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March 21, 2016

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For immediate release

City Officials and Community Leaders Join for Inaugural Safe Long Beach Retreat

The City of Long Beach hosted the first convening of *Safe Long Beach* partners, a group consisting of more than 80 government, education, non-profit, community- and faith-based organizations, to collaborate and discuss new ideas for strengthening and aligning resources to prevent violence and achieve the goals and initiatives of *Safe Long Beach*.

“Long Beach values diversity and is committed to ensuring an inclusive, safe, and sustainable community,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “This bold endeavor relies on strong partnerships and data-driven solutions to make a long-lasting difference in our City.”

The *Safe Long Beach* retreat on Friday, March 18, highlighted the value of cities developing partnerships to effectively reduce violence, improve community safety, and enhance quality of life. The event at Long Beach City College featured a series of workshops focused on implementing data-sharing strategies to measure successes and identify potential areas of improvement for crime prevention. A youth discussion group empowered local high school students to effectively respond to difficult life circumstances.

Keynote speakers Jack Calhoun, Senior Advisor for the United States Department of Justice, and Dr. Charles Lee-Johnson, CEO of National Family Life and Education Center, discussed the importance of commitment and collaboration to facilitate long-term policy and social changes.

Participants learned more about how government, non-profits and the public play a critical role in enhancing local violence prevention efforts, including strengthening community engagement, improving police-community trust, and increasing funding opportunities.

Adopted by the City Council in May 2014, *Safe Long Beach*, the City's Violence Prevention Plan addresses a broad safety agenda aimed at reducing all forms of violence, including domestic abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, hate crimes, bullying, gang violence, and violent crime. The Plan draws upon the City's many existing assets to target violence at its root and attain the goal of building a safer Long Beach by 2020.

For more information on *Safe Long Beach*, go to www.lbvpp.com.

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