

IN THIS ISSUE

Melrose BID Fills the Gap P.1
Crime Report for December P.2



BID INFO

Board of Directors:

Denis Weintraub, President
Sylvia Weintraub, Secretary
Julian Chicha, Treasurer
Pierson Blaetz, Board Member
Isack Fadlon, Board Member
Daniel Farasat, Board Member
David Hay, Board Member
Fred Rosenthal, Board Member

Staff:

Executive Director: Donald Duckworth
Marketing Director: Kim Sudhalter
Cleaning: Streetscape Services
Safety: Critical Solutions (CSPSG)

Meetings:

BID Board Meetings: 10am on the 2nd
Friday of the month, Hope Lutheran
Church, 6720 Melrose Ave.

Resources:

Email: duckworth.donald@gmail.com
LAPD: SLO Ian O'Brian, (213) 793-0708,
38916@lapd.online
BID Security Ambassador:
Riley Sherwood, (818) 405-2615,
rileysherwood22@gmail.com
Graffiti Removal & Sidewalk Cleaning:
Contact the BID

melroseartsdistrict.com

MELROSE BID FILLS THE GAP

City Struggles Financially to Provide Services to Local Businesses

Recently, city budget analysts issued a report showing that city revenues continue to plummet and that, halfway through the fiscal year, the city is facing a devastating \$675 million hole in the budget. In addition to prior cuts and already approved furlough days for many civilian employees, budget analysts are recommending a series of drastic cuts, including potentially 1,894 layoffs. They are also recommending that the city delay equipment purchases, cancel capital projects, do short-term borrowing, and exhaust most of its reserves and "rainy day" funds.

Councilman Mike Bonin has issued statements saying the city services and even police department budgets will have to be cut in the wake of the pandemic.

"Even with shared sacrifice from all departments, including the LAPD, the fiscal picture is grim," he said. "The recent report suggests cuts in fire department staffing, emergency management, and the agencies helping seniors, renters, and small businesses. It recommends spending less on traffic signals, street resurfacing and weed abatement. It recommends cuts that will mean a delay in street lighting projects, sidewalk repair, and other capital improvements."

Fortunately, while the city is scaling back, the Melrose Arts District BID continues to provide a wide array of services for local businesses to help fill the gap where the city has fallen short. From sidewalk cleaning and security, to trash collection and homeless services, the BID is working hard to improve the Melrose Avenue area.

"During these difficult times, we are proud to be providing critical services for our members and the entire community," said Executive Director Don Duckworth. "We are thankful to have the BID at such a critical juncture and together, we will get through this."



CRIME REPORT FOR DECEMBER

If we've have learned anything over the years, it's that community policing works. Two months ago, we were suffering from one of the highest influxes of crime on Melrose Ave. we'd seen in years. The reasons for this were diverse, but we knew the best way to approach it was to break down the problems, and work hand-in-hand with the LAPD to address each issue individually.

The Melrose BID set up a series of monthly Zoom meetings with the LAPD where business owners could interface directly with their Senior Lead Officer and Division Captain. In the first meeting, we came up with a specific plan where we outlined steps everyone could take as a citizen to help.

Now in our third month, we see crime dropping dramatically. According to LAPD stats through the end of November, crime is down about 19% over this time last year. One of the biggest drops is in area robberies which are down around 47% over last year, and burglaries which are down close to 44%.

Our SLO, Ian O'Brian is conducting bike patrols at least once a week and business owners are calling in reports of crime to dispatch more often. "Trends change, issues change," said O'Brian. "Open dialogue allows businesses to allay their concerns to the LAPD which can, in turn, be relayed to patrol officers."

"As this year comes to a close," he continued, "we look forward to continuing the open dialogue between business community and LAPD, making sure they are reporting crimes and contacting me if there are questions. We see how working together can make a difference and look forward to keeping the momentum going."

O'Brian urged business and property owners to make sure their surveillance systems are working, if you have them. Make sure to do a quick check to see if they're recording and storing. Camera footage of incidents helps detectives follow leads and make arrests as crime occurs. He also stresses that during this holiday season businesses should not leave cash in their tills or safes at night, be aware of their surroundings, and should educate customers to be vigilant (don't leave purchases in your car in full sight).

If you have an emergency, please call 911. Otherwise, you can reach **SLO Ian O'Brian** at (213) 793-0708, 38916@lapd.online, or **BID Security Ambassador Riley Sherwood** at (818) 405-2615, rileysherwood22@gmail.com. The number for **LAPD non-emergency dispatch** is (213) 928-8223.