

Crime Round Table Takeaways

April, 2024



Did you miss the Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District's April Crime Roundtable? Don't fret! We wrote down some important takeaways for you. But be sure to come to the next one in June!

Our special guest from the Lakewood Police Department, Agent Quinn Pratt-Cordova, your Lakewood Community Action Team (CAT) representative, spoke to the Alameda community about the police department's latest innovative crime prevention strategies. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and share concerns directly. Attendees discovered numerous resources available to them, including how the CAT Team can connect businesses to solutions that promote safety.

Attendees walked away with useful information!

About your Lakewood CAT Team:

- The CAT team was founded as a response to proactively address mental health issues, so they have added experts to the team instead of using law enforcement.
- The CAT team is the largest team at Lakewood PD with 8 agents, 2 sergeants and 10 civilian case workers which includes 2 Homeless Navigators.

Addressing the homelessness crisis:

- The CAT team has a process to deal with homeless encampments for unlawful storage on public property (camping in Lakewood is not technically illegal). The CAT Team can post notices to vacate on public property with 48 hours. Camp can then be removed after 48 hours.
- There are many reasons people become unhoused, not all the same so proactively addressing the crisis requires multiple solutions.
- Most people using the severe weather shelter on Colfax are from Lakewood area originally.
- Business' wanting to deal with homelessness can help by being a part of the process – not just putting up “No Trespassing” signs as a deterrent, but also cooperating by showing up at court to prosecute.

Newcomer policies and challenges:

- The activity itself of panhandling or window washing is not illegal, and people can be in intersections as long as the light is not green. However, they cannot obstruct traffic and that is something you can call in.
- People should be engaging with the political process by contacting their elected officials and keep emotions from running too high. Knee jerk emotions are not helpful and there have been inappropriate calls into dispatch with false information about migrant's actively which is a waste of everyone's time.

Next Steps/Next Topic:

- Retail theft continues to be an issue but data not fully updated. Target does prosecute shoplifting cases, they will update data in October.
- Next meeting – June 12

