



July 19, 2022

Supervisor Hilda Solis
856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: DTLA Public Safety & Wellness

Dear Supervisor Solis,

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) represents over 300 organizations including large employers, cultural and educational institutions nonprofits and more. We are committed to enhancing Downtown Los Angeles' (DTLA) vibrancy and increasing opportunity in the region. We appreciate your important work to further safety and wellness in the community, including the reimagining of Men's Central Jail, opening the Hilda Solis Care First Village and completing the Restorative Care Village which will provide 64 new recuperative care beds.

These are meaningful interventions, and we thank you and your team for your leadership. Still, we continue to have serious concerns about the lack of safety and wellness in the DTLA community. We ask that you partner with us to address the violence and mental health crises we witness frequently. These challenges impact the housed and the unhoused in our community, and this reality is unacceptable for all of us. **We respectfully request:**

- **A dedicated 24/7 9-8-8 mobile van to DTLA**
- **Expansion of street medicine services**
- **Increased community policing**

We believe these additional resources will meet DTLA's unique needs as described below, help our community recover from the pandemic and greatly improve the public safety and wellness for residents, employees and tourists visiting our city center.

DTLA Needs Increased Safety & Wellness Resources

DTLA is a unique community comprised of a combination of uses that do not exist elsewhere in the city. It is a cultural and tourism destination, a residential neighborhood with approximately 80,000 people, our civic center and the region's transportation hub. It is also home to the most concentrated homeless population in the United States. Our neighborhoods have been disproportionately impacted by the recent increase in crime. The below table shows how DTLA's higher crime rates compare to similar areas in the Los Angeles City between 6/5/2022-7/2/2022.

Crime Comparison			
	DTLA ⁱ	Hollywood ⁱⁱ	Wilshire ⁱⁱⁱ
Violent Crimes	212	149	71
Property Crimes	609	442	369
Total Arrests	293	250	142



DTLA has also had many high-profile incidents that have received media coverage including:

- Starbucks closures at 2nd and San Pedro and 1st and Los Angeles Streets due to safety concerns^{iv}
- Brutal attack of Female Olympian Kim Glass at 8th and Olive Streets^v
- Assault and death of Sandra Shells while waiting for a bus near Union Station^{vi}
- Unsafe conditions for workers at Union Station^{vii}

Many more unreported incidents happen every day. All of these incidents, those that are well-covered by media and those that are not, are cause for concern and deserve immediate action.

Dedicated 24/7 Mobile Van in DTLA (9-8-8 Response)

We are pleased that LA County has called for mobile healthcare vans to support 9-8-8, because if implemented correctly, 9-8-8 can be a true resource for those in need. DTLA has meaningful existing mental health crisis resources:

- The E6 teams provide outreach, service support and connection seven days a week until 4:30 pm.
- LA City is also about to commence the CIRCLE program in portions of DTLA that will also provide outreach, service support and coordination seven days a week until 3:30 pm.

LA County's mobile vans should be coordinated with the E6 teams and should support CIRCLE's work. Even with these resources, DTLA is still missing an on-the-ground presence that operates 24/7 to help fill gaps in services and to be able to respond in real time as mental health crises happen. **We encourage you to dedicate resources from your office to have at least one mobile van operate 24/7 in DTLA and to coordinate the van with E6 teams and the CIRCLE program.**

Expand Street Medicine

The County currently has a street medicine program in Skid Row that has been successful at connecting people with the support they need. We hope this program can be brought to scale and expanded to all of DTLA. Providing direct medical care to people living in encampments can help accomplish multiple goals, including stabilizing their physical and mental health and building the necessary trust to participate in the long, and often bureaucratic, maze of accessing services and housing in LA. Expanding the street medicine program could help stabilize more people who are living in encampments and improve their health while longer more permanent solutions are in the works. **The City currently contracts with USC to provide street medicine. We ask that you partner in the effort to expand street medicine to all of DTLA.**

Increase Foot Beat Officers

Foot beat officers dedicated to DTLA can prevent crimes through visibility and become familiar with community members, helping build trust and accountability between law enforcement and the community. CCA recognizes that law enforcement via bicycle and foot beat patrols are just one component of safety and wellness, but research^{viii,ix,x} and experience tell us that officer visibility and accessibility are key to DTLA's success. **We ask that you work with the City to determine if overtime funding is needed and to dedicate resources to DTLA.**



With the County's revenues returning to pre-pandemic levels and an unprecedented commitment from leadership to reimagine public safety and wellness, we hope you will partner with us to dedicate the necessary resources in Downtown Los Angeles. Our city center needs your bold leadership, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lall
President & CEO
Central City Association

ⁱ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/07/cntprof.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/07/hwdprof.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/07/wilprof.pdf>

^{iv} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-07-12/starbucks-to-close-six-los-angeles-stores-10-others-around-country-due-to-safety-issues>

^v <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-07-11/volleyball-olympian-kim-glass-details-injuries-suffered-attack-metal-pipe-los-angeles>

^{vi} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-01-16/woman-attacked-at-union-station-bus-stop-dies-from-injuries>

^{vii} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-05-07/union-station-workers-to-get-more-security-after-outcry-over-attacks>

^{viii} <https://www.capolicylab.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CPL-Press-Release-re-SFPD-footbeats-12-5-18-FINAL.pdf>

^{ix} <https://why.org/segments/the-police-experiment-that-changed-what-we-know-about-foot-patrol/>

^x https://docs.rwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=sjs_fp