

***THE GASLAMP ENFORCEMENT TEAM  
NEEDS THE COMMUNITY'S HELP!***



***SUMMARY***

The Gaslamp Quarter (Gaslamp) in downtown San Diego is a world-class neighborhood and business district rich in history and cultural vibrancy. Victorian architecture blends seamlessly with modern skyscrapers, and over 100 restaurants—rooftop escapes included—appeal to a wide audience, locally and globally.

Residents and visitors can choose from an array of entertainment options: theaters, museums, live performances, bars, clubs, cigar lounges, and retail shops. With everything within walking distance, the Gaslamp promises to make just about any visit unforgettable. But lately, the Gaslamp has been deemed unforgettable for something other than its entertainment options and festive nightlife. That “something other” is what prompted this investigation.

The 2024/2025 San Diego Grand Jury (Grand Jury) investigation revealed the following:

- Millions of tourists visit the Gaslamp annually.<sup>1</sup>
- In the past three years, crimes against persons and society in the Gaslamp have increased.<sup>2</sup>
- San Diego Police Department (SDPD) created the Gaslamp Enforcement Team, formerly known as Downtown Bike Team, specifically to meet the law enforcement needs of the Gaslamp Quarter.
- The Gaslamp Enforcement Team is deployed from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m., Thursday through Saturday nights.<sup>3</sup>
- Media reports and interviews note a negative public perception of the Gaslamp Quarter and the Gaslamp Enforcement Team exists.<sup>4, 5</sup>
- SDPD is short-staffed.<sup>6</sup>

Community safety is a priority for Gaslamp residents, visitors, and businesses, but as with any major destination area, crowds of people bring safety challenges. SDPD addresses safety concerns in part with the Gaslamp Enforcement Team that patrols three nights a week on bicycles, providing crime prevention through accessibility and community engagement as well as rapid emergency response through congested streets. The Gaslamp Enforcement Team is an integral part of nighttime safety in the Gaslamp; however, reports and social media videos of clashes between bicycle patrol officers and citizens have tainted public perceptions of the Gaslamp Enforcement Team's effectiveness.<sup>7</sup> Interviews during this investigation revealed:

- SDPD strives to help people feel safe downtown.
- Community trust is essential to the police department.
- The Gaslamp Enforcement Team needs the community's help and cooperation.

The Grand Jury recommends the bicycle team be visible and active during the daytime as well. A daytime team will require a more effective use of existing personnel, interpersonal skills training—and perhaps additional resources dedicated to bicycle patrol. Daytime visibility would also give officers greater opportunities to build community trust. Studies have shown a strong correlation between community trust and crime reduction.<sup>8, 9, 10</sup>

## ***BACKGROUND***

Visitors to the Gaslamp have spoken out about their experiences in Opinion articles published in local newspapers. The questionable validity of Opinion articles notwithstanding, the Grand Jury found the following articles to have viable credibility: On April 13, 2022, a *San Diego Union-Tribune* Opinion article warned, “Tourism is at risk if the streets are not policed.”<sup>11</sup> In an August 2024 *San Diego Union-Tribune* Opinion article, a Gaslamp visitor issued a vitriolic warning to readers to stay away from the Gaslamp if they want to be safe. The author makes claims of open drug use, public intoxication, and littered streets. He also states the police—whether in patrol cars or on foot—were either unwilling or unable to do anything about the open drug use that “was happening on Fourth Avenue and continuing down E Street.” “This neglect,” the author argues, “erodes the community’s trust in the Police Department’s ability to maintain public safety.”<sup>12</sup>

Residents and businesses are also concerned about the safety and image of the Gaslamp. On September 23, 2024, Downtown San Diego Partnership (DSDP) proposed a five-point plan to a coalition of City, County, and State officials and stakeholders to improve safety and cleanliness in downtown San Diego.<sup>13</sup> DSDP is a nonprofit organization that serves as the principal voice and driving force behind the economic prosperity and cultural vitality of downtown San Diego through membership, advocacy, public services, and community investment.<sup>14</sup> One of the tenets of the five-point plan focuses on crime reduction and is directed to the Mayor, Council Offices, Police Chief, City Attorney, and San Diego Police Department.<sup>15, 16</sup> DSDP president and CEO stated, “Immediate action on the plan is absolutely essential to make sure downtown remains the thriving, welcoming community that our city expects and deserves.”<sup>17</sup> Yet, to date, the plan has not been implemented by the coalition.

Noting tourist and community concerns about safety in the Gaslamp, the Grand Jury investigated the Gaslamp Enforcement Team’s role in addressing criminal activity and building community trust.

## ***PROCEDURE***

The Grand Jury interviewed staff from the following agencies:

- San Diego Police Department
- Gaslamp Quarter Association
- Downtown San Diego Partnership

The Grand Jury reviewed the following documents:

- *San Diego Police Department Policy Manual*<sup>18</sup>
- *San Diego Police Department Central Division Policy Manual*<sup>19</sup>
- *Bike Patrol Policy Manual*<sup>20</sup>
- Downtown San Diego Partnership's Five-Point Safety Plan<sup>21</sup>
- Gaslamp Quarter Year-to-Date Crime Data<sup>22</sup>
- Proposition 47<sup>23</sup>
- Proposition 36<sup>24</sup>

The Grand Jury requested to attend Gaslamp Enforcement Team shift briefing and to visit the bicycle storage and pick up location; however, SDPD Central Division failed to respond.

Repeated requests were made to interview key Gaslamp Enforcement Team personnel. The interviews did not take place as there were scheduling conflicts as well as failures to respond.

## ***DISCUSSION***

The Gaslamp Quarter is well known as the heart and soul of downtown San Diego due to its rich history, vibrant atmosphere, and status as a cultural and entertainment hub. It is also listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. The rectangle-shaped, 16 ½ square-block area is bounded by Broadway and K streets between Fourth and Sixth avenues. More than 1,000 people reside in the Gaslamp;<sup>25, 26</sup> and with more than 400 businesses in the area,<sup>27</sup> the Gaslamp attracts millions of visitors annually, which translates into significant revenue for the City.<sup>28</sup> Its close proximity to Petco Park and the San Diego Convention Center also contribute to Gaslamp's popularity and revenue.<sup>29</sup>

### **Crime in the Gaslamp Quarter**

Rising crime poses risks for residents and businesses alike.<sup>30,31,32</sup> While crime has decreased in the City of San Diego at large,<sup>33</sup> interviews indicated "crimes against persons" are increasing in the Gaslamp. Therefore, the Grand Jury focused on crime trends in the Gaslamp over the past

three years. City of San Diego annual crime data for 2022 as reported in the Automated Regional Justice Information System (Uniform Crime Reports by Geographical Area) is as follows for the Gaslamp:<sup>34</sup>

- Aggravated Assaults: 108
- Violent Crimes: 150
- Armed Robberies: 6
- Strong Armed Robberies: 25
- Rapes: 11

From January to December 2023, there were 369 crimes against persons in the Gaslamp.<sup>35</sup> From January to December 2024, there were 385 crimes against persons.<sup>36</sup> Crime data can fluctuate daily. During this investigation, Gaslamp crime data showed that while property crimes are down 69%, there is a 17% increase in crimes against persons, such as murder, rape, and assault; and a 6% increase in crimes against society, such as gambling, prostitution, and drug violations.<sup>37</sup>

As many as 50,000 people visit the Gaslamp on Friday and Saturday nights.<sup>38, 39</sup> Interviews with SDPD indicated there is “a level of lawlessness” police have not seen in recent years. “The atmosphere in the Gaslamp has changed...there is an emboldened perception by some people that rules do not matter because of Proposition 47.” From responding to people jumping on hoods of parked police cars to instances of open drug use, theft, panhandlers preying upon tourists, and fights ensuing when bars close, police officers in the Gaslamp “are doing the best [they] can from the law enforcement side” to address the community’s safety concerns.

Under Proposition 47, which passed November 4, 2014, certain offenses were reclassified from felonies to misdemeanors. As a result, prison and jail populations plummeted along with charges for drug and property crimes.<sup>40</sup> Proposition 36, which reclassifies some misdemeanor drug and theft crimes as felonies,<sup>41</sup> became effective December 18, 2024. Proponents of Proposition 36 believe it will help address and alleviate rising crime and drug abuse.<sup>42</sup>

The Grand Jury investigation and interviews further revealed Gaslamp Enforcement Team officers often encounter intoxicated individuals resisting arrest as well as numerous instances of “friends” attempting to “grab offenders from the arresting officers; and there is also an increased number of homeless and mentally ill individuals on the streets of the Gaslamp. Rapes have occurred; and in the fall of 2024, there was a homicide in front of a Gaslamp club.<sup>43</sup>

The Gaslamp is vital to the City, and confidence in public safety is essential to it remaining a hub for entertainment and dining. A review of SDPD Policy Manual indicates that by adhering to existing Neighborhood Policing guidelines, SDPD can help increase community trust and reduce crime in the Gaslamp.<sup>44</sup>

### **SDPD’s Gaslamp Chain of Command and Officer Duties**

The Gaslamp is one of the communities (neighborhoods) that falls under Central Division’s jurisdiction. Central Division is one of SDPD’s nine divisions. Each division or Area Command is headed by a police captain. Duties and responsibilities<sup>45</sup> of the Captain include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring proper response to community needs and crime problems under the Neighborhood Policing philosophy and guidelines.
  - Neighborhood policing (also known as community policing) is a philosophy of full-service policing where officers patrol the same area for an extended time, develop partnerships with citizens and collaboratively identify and solve problems. It encourages interactive partnerships between law enforcement agencies, officers, and the community, aiming to proactively address public safety issues.
- Establishing direct communication with community leaders, including City Council representatives.
- Promoting problem solving at all levels and encouraging community participation to maintain a strong partnership.
- Approving assignment changes and temporary assignments of personnel within the command and temporary assignments of personnel in specialized units.

Next in command is the Service Area Lieutenant whose duties and responsibilities<sup>46</sup> include but are not limited to:

- Supervising and evaluating assigned Patrol/Specialized Unit Sergeants.
- Monitoring personnel and equipment needs, resource allocation, and providing annual budget documentation.
- Monitoring personnel staffing.
- Establishing interaction with community leaders.
- Promoting a positive environment and reward system for excellent work, community involvement, and Neighborhood Policing efforts.

The Gaslamp Enforcement Team Sergeant (Patrol Sergeant) reports directly to the Service Area Lieutenant. The patrol sergeant's duties and responsibilities<sup>47</sup> include:

- Ensuring problem-solving is implemented with community input.
- Conducting meetings and briefings to identify crime trends.
- Making recommendations to the Service Area Lieutenant regarding work priorities and training needs.
- Evaluating problem-solving activities initiated by officers.
- Recognizing and commending officers for community involvement and for applying successful neighborhood policing tactics.
- Providing oral and written expectations to squad members.

Created specifically to meet the law enforcement needs of the Gaslamp, the Gaslamp Enforcement Team reports directly to the Patrol Sergeant. Each team is normally composed of one sergeant and seven to eight officers who work a twelve-hour nightshift from 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., Thursday through Saturday.

The Gaslamp Enforcement Team has a comprehensive list of duties and responsibilities:<sup>48</sup>

- Patrol on bicycle with specific emphasis on the Gaslamp Area.
- Develop community partnerships and enlist assistance in problem solving.

- Respond to incidents in the Gaslamp area that involve problems with:
  - a. Traffic
  - b. Pedicabs
  - c. Street entertainers
  - d. Illegal street vendors
  - e. Public intoxication
  - f. Pedestrian traffic
  - g. Disorderly behavior with nightclub patrons
  - h. Transients
  - i. Operation of valet services
  - j. Holiday and special event crowd problems
- Be an ambassador for the City by willingly assisting visitors.
- Attend community meetings/forums in the assigned area.
- Provide reactive and proactive enforcement in known crime areas to deter and prevent criminal activity.

### **Gaslamp Enforcement Team's Effectiveness**

Interviews with Gaslamp Quarter Association staff indicated that due to the number of bars and restaurants in the Gaslamp, public safety would be an even greater concern without the presence of the Gaslamp Enforcement Team. "The bike team is helpful to the Gaslamp...the police department is doing the best job they can." When asked whether a daytime police bicycle team would be helpful, staff replied: "Oh, absolutely! Their presence would deter potential crime."

Generally, officers on bicycles are perceived as more approachable and less intimidating compared to officers in patrol cars.<sup>49</sup> However, there is a perception in the media of the Gaslamp Enforcement Team officers being "overly aggressive toward people leaving clubs and bars, leading to several violent confrontations and multiple arrests." It is also claimed that even when arrests are warranted, "lately the officers have been coming in overly aggressive from the start, making a bad situation worse."<sup>50</sup> Through interviews the Grand Jury learned those public comments are not reflective of the full encounter, and officers are held accountable when they do



wrong. Nevertheless, negative perceptions of police officers can erode public trust, making it more difficult for them to do their jobs.<sup>51</sup>

To help combat unfavorable perceptions, SDPD has a policy to foster community trust. According to policy, members of the Department “shall be tactful in the performance of their duties, shall control their tempers, exercise the utmost patience and discretion and shall not engage in argumentative discussion even in the face of extreme provocation.”<sup>52</sup> Through research, the Grand Jury learned that SDPD chief’s “main priority is improving the trust the community has in the police department. Without that, none of his goals for the department can be achieved.”<sup>53</sup> Building trust with the community is essential in crime reduction and/or prevention:

When people feel confident in law enforcement, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, and engage in crime prevention activities. A trusting relationship between the police and the community creates an environment in which citizens are not only willing to report crimes but also actively participate in crime prevention efforts.<sup>54</sup>

### **Short-staffed**

Central Division reported it needs an additional 50 to 100 officers. There are staff shortages within the bicycle unit as well. Research has shown that each sworn officer hired translates into 1.3 fewer violent crimes annually.<sup>55</sup> Moreover, staff shortages bring additional challenges as they potentially increase risks for citizens. Low staffing levels also leave officers little time for community engagement. During the interviews, the Grand Jury learned that “being consistently proactive along with keeping up with calls and making arrests is difficult for officers patrolling the Gaslamp.” Nationwide, police departments are being creative in response to staff shortages by using deployment strategies that maximize the effectiveness of existing staff.<sup>56,57, 58</sup>

Whereas six to eight officers make up the nighttime Gaslamp Enforcement Team, three to four officers in the daytime might be sufficient for community engagement and routine criminal response. The Grand Jury finds that by expanding coverage to daylight hours, a few officers can begin to build trust within the Gaslamp community through Neighborhood Policing.

### **Other Jurisdictions Utilizing Daytime Bicycle Patrols**

San Diego Gaslamp Quarter does not currently have a daytime police bicycle patrol, but evidence of the effectiveness of daytime bicycle patrols in other communities suggests a daytime bicycle team in the Gaslamp could be very effective.

### ***Santa Monica, CA***

The Santa Monica Police Department's Downtown Services Unit utilizes bicycles to increase officer visibility to the community and provide a tactical approach to crimes in progress. The Downtown Services Unit patrols on bicycles the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Promenade, an area similar to the Gaslamp Quarter. Shifts include daylight hours and weekends.<sup>59</sup>

### ***Bellingham, WA***

On January 7, 2025, police officers began patrolling on bicycles and on foot in downtown Bellingham, WA. According to their police department, one sergeant and four officers will patrol downtown Bellingham from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.<sup>60</sup> Like San Diego, Bellingham neighborhoods contain varying levels of safety, but compared to communities of all sizes—from the smallest towns to the very largest cities—Bellingham has one of the highest crime rates in America.<sup>61</sup> Bellingham is also coping with police staff shortages. However, on their official Facebook page, Bellingham Police Department emphasizes how “officers riding bikes allow them to be so more accessible to members of the community.” They also stress the opportunity bicycle patrol officers have to develop long-lasting relationships with the people who work, live, and frequent Downtown Bellingham.<sup>62</sup> In support of their police force, more than 1.5K individuals have reacted favorably on Bellingham Police Department's Facebook page to news of the return of the daytime bike patrol.<sup>63</sup> One of the page's top fans was excited to see “proactive policing back in.” Another exclaimed, “Yes!!! I have missed the bike patrol!! They made downtown so much better.” Notwithstanding the source, these comments have merit. Gaslamp Quarter residents and visitors might have similar reactions to a daytime bicycle patrol team.

### ***City of London, UK***

The City of London Police's Cycle Response Unit was formed in July 2023 to combat drug-related crimes and respond to community concerns about road safety and antisocial behavior. By June 2024, the Response Unit had “made a huge difference.” The City of London Chief

Superintendent said, “Despite being a small team, this dedicated group of officers has made huge strides in education, engagement and enforcement in the Square Mile.”<sup>64</sup>

## **A Way Forward**

Though the public is aware of the need for law enforcement, it is not always cognizant of the role the community can play in keeping our neighborhoods safe. Sir Robert Peel, the father of modern policing and founder of the first police force (1829), established the following principles that still hold true today in law enforcement:

The goal of policing is preventing crime, not catching criminals. If the police stop crime before it happens, we don’t have to punish citizens or suppress their rights. An effective police department doesn’t have high arrest stats; its community has low crime rates. The key to preventing crime is earning public support. Every community member must share the responsibility of preventing crime, as if they were all volunteer members of the force. They will only accept this responsibility if the community supports and trusts the police. The police earn public support by respecting community principles. Winning public approval requires hard work to build reputation: enforcing the laws impartially, hiring officers who represent and understand the community, and using force only as a last resort.<sup>65</sup>

An excerpt of the San Diego Police Departmental Executive Order echoes Peel’s principles of policing:

Policy consists of principles, values and philosophies, which guide the performance of members. It is based on police ethics and experience, the desires of the community and legal mandates. Policy is broad in scope so that it will encompass most situations. It is stated in general terms. Methods of procedures will be disseminated in the form of Department Procedures. The Policy Manual and Department Procedures are available to all members via computer on-line. Policies and Procedures convey the same authority and require compliance by all members. Each member must be familiar with the contents of the Policy Manual and the Department Procedures. Violations of any portion of the Policy and Procedures Manual may result in disciplinary action.<sup>66</sup>

Central Division’s Mission Statement reads: “Our mission is to maintain peace and order by providing a full range of police services crafted to the needs of [each of our jurisdictions]. We will work together to develop partnerships with the communities we serve.”<sup>67</sup>

The Gaslamp Enforcement Team’s mission is to respond to the needs of both the business and residential community, ensure the safety and security of visitors to the area, and provide quality

police services.<sup>68</sup> To that end, in March 2024, the Gary Sinise Foundation donated 25 brand new Volcanic bicycles to SDPD's Gaslamp Enforcement Team to assist the team in fulfilling its mission.<sup>69</sup>

The Grand Jury finds SDPD's policy supports its police officers in their efforts to reduce crime in the Gaslamp. Therefore, we recommend the Gaslamp Enforcement Team be expanded to include a daytime bicycle team. A daytime bicycle team provides the officers opportunities to make a positive impact by establishing good relations with visitors, residents, and businesses.

## **Conclusion**

The Grand Jury appreciates the vast amount of work that goes into policing and recognizes law enforcement's vast authority and power: Authority not just to stop, detain, question, search and arrest individuals, but also the power to mitigate and resolve conflicts, and prevent crime and disorder. With the community's help and robust in-view bicycle patrolling, the Gaslamp Enforcement Team has the ability and responsibility to help keep the Gaslamp safe and maintain its world-class destination status.

## ***FACT/FINDINGS***

**Fact:** Public safety is a major consideration for residents, businesses as well as tourists seeking entertainment in the Gaslamp.

**Finding 01:** Building confidence in public safety in the Gaslamp requires a concerted effort by day and nighttime Gaslamp Enforcement Teams.

**Fact:** According to media reports, some members of the public perceive Gaslamp Enforcement Team officers as overly aggressive when responding to crime in the Gaslamp area.

**Fact:** Frequently, perception is reality, and consequently, negative publicity coupled with a negative perception can make it more difficult for police officers to do their job.

**Finding 02:** By adhering to the Neighborhood Policing policy and patrolling on bicycles during daylight hours, the Gaslamp Enforcement Team has the opportunity through community outreach to build the types of relationships with residents, visitors, and businesses that lead to crime reduction and trust in law enforcement.

**Fact:** Crimes against persons and society have increased in the Gaslamp Quarter in the past three years.

**Fact:** The San Diego Police Department is experiencing staff shortages.

**Finding 03:** The rise in crime combined with SDPD staff shortages make it even more critical for SDPD to garner the help of community members in reducing crime in the Gaslamp Quarter.

## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

**The 2024/2025 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that City of San Diego Police Department:**

**R1:** Treat staff shortages as an opportunity to be creative and resourceful, and thereby, more effective with existing staff levels.

**R2:** Maximize the use of officers patrolling on bicycles in the Gaslamp to include a dayshift, a minimum of five days a week and on weekends and holidays, to provide a highly visible and more effective police presence.

**R3:** Mandate interpersonal skills training for the Gaslamp Enforcement Team with an emphasis on the application of SDPD's existing Neighborhood Policing guidelines.

**R4:** Direct the Gaslamp Enforcement Team to build trust by being more approachable and available to Gaslamp Quarter residents, visitors, and business owners with the objectives of deterring and preventing crime.

**The 2024/2025 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that City Council and Mayor of San Diego:**

**R5:** Appropriate additional funding and resources to the SDPD to allow maximization of the number of officers patrolling on bicycles in the Gaslamp to include a dayshift, five days a week and on weekends and holidays.

## ***REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS***

The California Penal Code §933(c) requires any public agency which the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, to comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of

the agency. Such comment shall be made *no later than 90 days* after the Grand Jury publishes its report (filed with the Clerk of the Court); except that in the case of a report containing findings and recommendations pertaining to a department or agency headed by an elected County official (e.g. District Attorney, Sheriff, etc.), such comment shall be made *within 60 days* to the Presiding Judge with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors. Furthermore, California Penal Code §933.05(a), (b), (c), details, as follows, the manner in which such comment(s) are to be made:

(a) As to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

(b) As to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor. (c) If a

finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

Comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in compliance with the Penal Code §933.05 are required from the:

### **Responding Agency**

**San Diego Police Department**

### **Recommendations**

**R1-R5**

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<sup>1</sup> "San Diego INDUSTRY RESEARCH, San Diego, accessed April 11, 2025, <https://www.sandiego.org/about/industry-research.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> "Neighborhood Crime Summary Year-to-Date," The City of San Diego Police Department, City of San Diego, accessed February 25, 2025, <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c24d611442564023af92f42759ee5c42/>.

<sup>3</sup> *San Diego Police Department Central Division Operations Manual*, Revised June 2023, <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/central-division-ops-manual-2023-redacted.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Steve Price, "San Diego police caught on camera in violent clashes in Gaslamp | cbs8.com," 8 cbs8, August 19, 2024, <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/polic-clash-with-people-in-gaslamp/509-21449460-bd25-4639-ae8b-f7f846b7f68f>.

<sup>5</sup> Alex Riggins, SDPD defends Gaslamp bicycle officers' actions in viral arrest video," *San Diego Union-Tribune*, September 12, 2024, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/09/12/sdpd-defends-gaslamp-bicycle-officers-actions-in-viral-arrest-video/>.

<sup>6</sup> Danielle Dawson, "San Diego police response times expected to slow due to budget cuts, chief says," *Fox 5 KUSI News*, February 3, 2025, <https://fox5sandiego.com/news/local-news/san-diego-police-response-times-expected-to-slow-due-to-budget-cuts-chief-says/>.

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<sup>7</sup> Steve Price, “San Diego police caught on camera in violent clashes in Gaslamp | cbs8.com,” 8 cbs8, August 19, 2024, <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/polic-clash-with-people-in-gaslamp/509-21449460-bd25-4639-ae8b-f7f846b7f68f>.

<sup>8</sup> “Benefits of Trusting the Police in the Community – Global Police Review,” Global Police Review, December 25, 2024, <https://globalpoliceview.com/benefits-of-trusting-the-police-in-the-community/>.

<sup>9</sup> “The Impact of Community Policing on Crime Rates,” Towson Telegraph, 4 August 2023, <https://wpstudents.towson.edu/rwilso27/2023/08/04/the-impact-of-community-policing-on-crime-rates/>.

<sup>10</sup> “Action Item 2: Advance violent crime reduction efforts by improving trust and cooperation between community and police,” 50-State Report on Public Safety, <https://50statespublicsafety.us/part-1/strategy-4/action-item-2/>.

<sup>11</sup> Contributed Content and Staff Report, “San Diego must take back its downtown before it’s too late,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 13, 2022, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2022/04/13/san-diego-must-take-back-its-downtown-before-its-too-late/>.

<sup>12</sup> Damon Zwicker, “Opinion: I came to work at Comic-Con and left reeling from the Gaslamp’s dark side,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, August 5, 2024, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/08/05/opinion-i-came-to-work-at-comic-con-and-left-reeling-from-the-gaslamps-dark-side/>.

<sup>13</sup> Downtown San Diego Partnership. “Downtown Five-Point Safety Plan.” (Note the Advocacy Audience for each point in the plan). September 23, 2024. <https://downtownsandiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/DSDP-Safety-Plan.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> “The Downtown San Diego Partnership,” Downtown San Diego Partnership, <https://downtownsandiego.org/>.

<sup>15</sup> Elizabeth Ireland, “Residents, Business Owners Unveil Dramatic Plan to ‘Clean Up’ Downtown,” *Times of San Diego*, September 23, 2024. <https://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2024/09/23/residents-business-owners-unveil-dramatic-plan-to-clean-up-downtown/>.

<sup>16</sup> Downtown San Diego Partnership. “Downtown Five-Point Safety Plan.” September 23, 2024. <https://downtownsandiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/DSDP-Safety-Plan.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> Elizabeth Ireland, “Residents, Business Owners Unveil Dramatic Plan to ‘Clean Up’ Downtown,” *Times of San Diego*, September 23, 2024. <https://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2024/09/23/residents-business-owners-unveil-dramatic-plan-to-clean-up-downtown/>.

<sup>18</sup> *San Diego Police Department Policy Manual*, Revised March 10, 2022, <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/completeddepartmentpolicymanual.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> *San Diego Police Department Central Division Operations Manual*, Revised June 2023, <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/central-division-ops-manual-2023-redacted.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> [BIKE PATROL POLICY MANUAL.pdf](#).

<sup>21</sup> Downtown San Diego Partnership. “Downtown Five-Point Safety Plan.” September 23, 2024. <https://downtownsandiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/DSDP-Safety-Plan.pdf>.



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- <sup>22</sup> Utilize the dropdown feature to select Gaslamp from the “Neighborhood Crime Summary Year-to-Date,” The City of San Diego Police Department, City of San Diego, accessed February 25, 2025, <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c24d611442564023af92f42759ee5c42/>.
- <sup>23</sup> “Prop 47 Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.” Secretary of State Website, November 4, 2014, accessed April 10, 2025, <https://vigarchive.sos.ca.gov/2014/general/en/propositions/47/title-summary.htm>.
- <sup>24</sup> Office of the District Attorney County of Riverside, “Understanding the New California Laws on Drug and Theft Offenses,” RivCoNOW, <https://rivcoda.org/blog/prop36>.
- <sup>25</sup> “Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego, CA Demographics,” aeravibes, <https://www.aeravibes.com/san+diego-ca/gaslamp+quarter/demographics/>.
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