

This Notice provides guidance to Department personnel regarding interactions with Business Improvement Districts (“BIDs”) because of recent litigation involving BID security officers seizing the personal property of homeless persons. A BID is a geographically defined area within the City of Los Angeles in which supplemental services and activities are provided to business or property owners within the BID area. BIDs perform such services as tree trimming, trash collection, power washing of sidewalks, graffiti removal, and other upkeep and maintenance activities. Some BIDs provide security or safety services on the public rights of way within the district.

BIDs are separate and distinct from the City. BID officers, employees, and representatives are not employees or agents of the City. Importantly, BID employees have no more authority than private citizens to enforce the law.

Department personnel shall not request, direct, nor authorize any BID officer or employee to seize or remove attended or unattended personal property of homeless persons, or property that the Department itself is prevented from seizing and removing. If a person claims that a BID officer or employee has improperly taken or confiscated his or her personal belongings, Department personnel should treat that claim the same as any other report consistent with LAPD policy and procedure.

Final BID Training Bulletin

Los Angeles Catholic Worker et al v. Los Angeles Downtown Industrial District et al,
United States District Court, Central District of California, Case No. CV 14-07344 PSG (AJW)