

**French Quarter Management District
Security Task Force Meeting Notes – June 17, 2015**

Introductions of Attendees

List of attendees is providing at the end of the notes

FQMD June Board Meeting

Bob reported that the matter of committee membership was brought up, more specifically the FQMD chair requested the leads of the committees/task forces prepare suggestions for revision to the membership. Bob requested that people let him know if they'd like to be removed from STF member roster.

Video Surveillance

- SafecamNOLA now has 2,400 cameras registered w/NOPD around the city/1,400 in the 8th District.
- "Heat map" showed 8th District locations – several area are lacking cameras. One is the 700 blk of Barracks. This was discovered while looking for cameras after a carjacking incident.
- Posting warning signs that announce presence of video surveillance is not always a good idea; this tips off criminals to cover their faces. Bob showed video of one such incident, and requested attendees to pass along this information.

Feral Graffiti Vandal

Now have several good videos and photographs of the vandal; he's still tagging a lot most recently on trash cans, streetlights etc. Brittany made/distributed posters for Task Force and 8th District officers to help with identifying him. NOPD has investigated 3 potential suspects but none were matches. Still looking.....

NOPD Staffing Update (slide info)

Attrition has dropped off, but still losing more officers than recruiting. Discussed next recruiting class that is about to start and the current class which will graduate in late June.

NOLA Patrol

- "Specialists" now out on FQ streets, hours approximately 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM.
- Sgt. L.J. Smith is their commander.
- A guidebook is being developed (combined effort by Infrastructure Committee & Security Task Force) - the guide contains pictures showing what they can and can't do and will be reviewed by the City Attorney.
- One thing they cannot do is ticket moving violations (but they can "direct" traffic).
- Emily hosted a well-attended reception for them at Royal Sonesta Hotel on June 10.

Crime Map – April & May 2015 (slide info)

Statistics showed downward trend due to increase police presence.

- Worst concentrations of crime are on Bourbon VCE and Decatur. It's being reduced where Task Force is focusing, consequently being pushed from one area to another, i.e. into Marigny. Gutter punks are being pushed onto the river/Moonwalk etc.

- Bob and John Zimmerman met with French Market Corporation, who have tried 3 different security companies since Katrina – none successfully. Will now try building their own FMC security force. Bob recounted John Zimmerman’s harrowing moonwalk story about attempting to help a tourist (with 2 children) being threatened with a knife because he didn’t pay up to a “where you got them shoes” scammer. After the tourist thanked John, he said they were immediately checking out of their hotel and going to Biloxi.
- New NOPD QOL Officer Alicia Pierre offered to check more behind JAX and along Moonwalk.

Several other stories were related about aggressive solicitation causing problems around many businesses.

Officer Pierre told about many enforcement problems early in the morning – vagrants w/alcohol, etc. Problems often emanate around Rouses, where vagrants buy or send people in to purchase alcohol for them, then continue hanging around. Rouses management refuses to take any responsibility or show interest in working with the community, stating that Rouses “has no responsibility after they go out the door.” Their security guard is disinterested as well.

Personal Crimes – Much improved since December.

French Quarter Patrol (FQ Task Force)

- The app now has 8,000 downloads.
- 2,900 calls have been responded to since FQTF inception on March 23.
- 5 sweeps by Joint NOPD/FQTF/SPCA/OPSO.
- Grid shown w/summary breakdown of calls/dates etc:

Week #	Period	App Calls	Dispatch Calls	Self Initiated Calls	Total Calls	Arrests
7	May 3 to 9	114	67	127	308	7
8	May 10 to 16	153	117	155	425	16
9	May 17 to 23	114	72	124	310	11
10	May 24 - 30	107	72	99	278	13
11	May 31 - June 6	88	66	96	250	1
12	June 7 - 13	105	82	98	285	12
13	June 14 - 20					
14	June 21 - 27					

- High number of “self-initiated” (when officer self identifies a problem).
- Goal in the beginning was to be proactive; now actually making arrests (123 total)

Shift Chart

- Presently shows assignments for 28 officers (some work up to 4 shifts).
- Constant last minute shift reshuffling due to last minute demands from officers’ primary obligations.
- Have attracted many high calibre officers.

Bob described recent FQ Patrol incident that was very traumatic for the 2 responding officers. The FQTF received several back-to-back calls about a quickly escalating situation in the 700 blk of Bourbon. Officers responded immediately, as soon as they arrived on scene, the girl stabbed herself in the throat spraying blood onto the officers who then had to try and stop the bleeding.

Task Force App Experience So Far

- Sometimes app is being used the wrong way.
- Bob showed several good usage examples.
- Usually no picture is sent w/description of problem.- makes it difficult for the officers
- Brittany offered tip that it works better if photo is taken first, THEN go into app and type.

Plan for Remainder of Year (slide info)

- Still working on raising remaining monies needed (\$37k)
- Showed listing of residents and businesses who have donated over \$70k to keep the patrol operating thru June 21
- CVB/City has agreed to fund patrol for July-December from the hotel/motel voluntary room tax that funds the FQ Improvement Fund.
- Bob showed photo of Mike Tilbury's balcony banner giving appreciation to Sidney Torres and the FQTF. Bob remarked that we should all be grateful to Sidney for his gift to the Quarter.

Bourbon Patrol Map

- Disagreement over patrol routes – 3 different proposed routes for the area near Canal.
- Some Bourbon St. businesses don't want route going on Canal St.
- CVB and FQ Business League disagree – needs to be resolved.
- Discussion over differences of information re Canal St., Coleman Adler's patrol, DDD, etc. Dwyre McComsey said the situation needs to be clarified before Redfish can consider donating.
- Ann Kessler, FQBL, wants it cleared up about who does and does not want to be involved. Felt that the people who are getting benefit of patrol for free should at least be asked if they'd like to help with funding.

Bourbon Patrol Hours

Worked with the State Troopers and NOPD and concluded that the manpower should be higher after midnight. Could also consider Polaris patrols after 3:00 AM onward. Officer Pierre gave enlightening descriptions of Bourbon St. after 3:00 AM – the crowd totally changes - becomes much more dangerous - does not die down until 7:00 AM.

2016 Plan

- Economic Development District (EDD or "Quarter for the Quarter") would generate \$2 ½ million. That's enough to fund the creation of a FQ State Police Troop but not at the required strength.
- If the tax vote passes, the CVB will provide matching funding to get the Troop to the required size.
- If the tax vote passes the CVB will fund the continuation of the FQ Task Force
- Tourists would account for most monies generated by the tax.
- Vote by FQ residents will be October 24, 2015.

Contact info for Officer Alicia Pierre

Officer Alicia Pierre was a great contributor to the meeting – open and sharing, with a proactive attitude and quick grasp of the situation. She will be attending all future STF meetings. Her contact info is as follows:

504-655-3380

aapierre@cityofneworleans.gov

NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2015 at 3pm – Antoinet

ATTENDEES:

Members - Bob Simms, Bev Fulk, Mike Tilbury, Kim Rosenberg, Dwyre McComsey, Emily Remington

Guests - Ann Kessler, Brittany Mulla, Angele Wilson, Officer Alicia Pierre.

Notes compiled by Beverly Fulk and reviewed by Bob Simms