

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2016

**MINUTES**

(as approved by the Board November 7, 2016)

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Steve Caputo | Jim Oliver | David Speights |
| Jeremy DeBilieux | Dennis Pearse | Robert Watters |
| Brian Furness | Kimberly Rosenberg | Ted Young |
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 Absent: Darryl Berger, Duke LoCicero, Mia Matassa, Nicholas Musso

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| **Committee Co-Chairs and Staff:** |  |  |
| Bob Simms, Security and Enforcement Committee | Emily Remington, Executive Director |
| Gail Cavett, Infrastructure Committee |  |  |

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| **Guests[[1]](#footnote-1) (Affiliation if listed)** |  |
| B. McGovern, French Quarter Business Association | Pat Meadowcroft, VCPORA |
| Susan Guillot, French Quarter Citizens | Albin Guillot, French Quarter Citizens |
| Jon Wishey, NOPD |  |
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# Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Attendees

Chair Jim Oliver called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. The agenda (Attachment 1) was noted and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

The Secretary called the roll and stated that a “super quorum”[[2]](#footnote-2) was present.

# Public Comment

A sign-up sheet was circulated asking guests wishing to address particular items to record their interest.

# Chair’s Comments

1. Overview of Request for Proposals for a French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) Administrator – Timeline to Date

Chair Oliver recalled that meeting was called to hear from the French Quarter Task Force Administrative Services Selection Team (hereinafter “Selection Team”) regarding its deliberations on a candidate to administer the FQTF. The issue, he observed, needed to be addressed and a decision considered before the next regularly scheduled FQMD Board meeting. He thanked Selection Team member principals[[3]](#footnote-3) and the advisors[[4]](#footnote-4) for their service.[[5]](#footnote-5)

# Recommendations from the Selection Team

Commissioner Watters stated the proposals were received from four firms: Admiral, G4S, Pinnacle, and Ronin. After initial Selection Team consideration, supplemental questions were submitted to the applicants. Admiral failed to respond, and Selection Team review eliminated Ronin. G4S and Pinnacle were asked to submit to interviews, which took place on Friday, October 7, and which explored issues including depth of experience and personnel, price (the prices were roughly similar), and organizational quality. NOPD 8th District Commander Jeff Walls joined the Team for the meeting. At the conclusion, the Selection Team voted unanimously to recommend that the FQMD Board that the FQTF administrative services contract be awarded to G4S.

Selection Team advisor and Security and Enforcement Committee Co-chair Bob Simms noted that App improvements could reduce G4S’ bid requirements, and clarified that the total estimated $1.14 million cost included the two additional officers and the daytime enforcement program.

Further discussion clarified that, while few programs were entirely similar to the FQTF, G4S was appropriately approaching the tasks as an administrative, not policing, operation, and seemed well versed in the application of technology to the monitoring function. G4S seemed particularly strong in the depth of experience and available personnel, areas in which current operator Pinnacle was weak. G4S, in addition to its worldwide operations, was recently awarded a security services contract from Tulane Hospital. G4S personnel would be provided from and through its local office.

In response to consideration of the link between the FQTF administration services contract and the overarching Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, Chair Oliver reminded that the CEA could raise larger concerns but that the Board need to move rapidly with the contract to bring relief to current volunteer efforts and to put additional officers on the street.

Commissioner Rosenberg’s Motion (M1) to approve the Team recommendation of G4S was approved unanimously.

The Chair of the Negotiating Team (see Agenda V) would discuss the results with G4S and Pinnacle.

1. Next Steps

Chair Oliver stated that the next step was to choose a team to negotiate a contract with G4S. With respect to the linkage to the CEA, Chair Oliver noted that the current CEA had not worked satisfactorily and would thus require renegotiation by a CEA negotiating team to be named later. However, the FQTF Contract Negotiating Team would have to take CEA changes into account in its negotiations with G4S. Commissioner Caputo observed that G4S could possibly be of service to the FQMD in its negotiation of a CEA with the City.

Commissioner DeBlieux’s motion, as amended, moved that the G4S Contract Negotiating Team Commissioners be Steve Caputo, Brian Furness, Kimberly Rosenberg, and Robert Watters; and that the advisors be Amy Blanchard (Sidney Torres designee), Jeremy DeBlieux, Emily Remington, Robert Simms, and David Speights. The Motion (M2) was approved unanimously.

Noting the valuable advice to the Selection Team provided by former City Attorney Sharonda Williams. Commissioner Rosenberg moved that the Board approve up to $3,000 to procure her services to assist the G4S contract negotiating team. The Motion (M3) was approved unanimously.

1. Future Meetings: November 7, 2016
2. Adjournment

Adjournment was approved by acclamation at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Brian R. Furness, Secretary

Annex 1: Motions approved at the Meeting of October 17, 2016

Annex 2: List of Attachments

**ANNEX 1: Motions[[6]](#footnote-6) – Special Meeting of October 17, 2016**

1. *Recommendation of the Selection Team (Agenda III).* Kimberly Rosenberg: “That the unanimous recommendation of the RFP Selection Team to move forward with G4S be approved.” Second: DeBlieux. Approved unanimously.
2. *Contract Negotiating Team (Agenda V).* Jeremy DeBlieux: “That a team composed of four Commissioners (Steve Caputo, Brian Furness, Kimberly Rosenberg, Robert Watters) and five advisors (Amy Blanchard, Jeremy DeBlieux, Robert Simms, David Speights, and Emily Remington) be tasked to negotiate a contract to administer the French Quarter Task Force with G4S.” Second: Speights. Approved unanimously.
3. *Contract Negotiating Team Legal Support (Agenda V)*. Kimberly Rosenberg: “That up to $3,000 be allocated to defray the cost of legal advice and counsel to the Contract Negotiating Team to be furnished by former City Attorney Sharonda Williams.” Second: DeBlieux. Approved unanimously.
4. *Adjournment.* “That the meeting be adjourned.” Approved by acclamation.

**ANNEX 2: Attachments – Special Meeting of October 17, 2016**

1. Agenda — Special Meeting of October 17, 2016
1. From sign-in sheets. Undecipherable names not included. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A “super quorum” of not less than a majority of members plus one is necessary to approve action on certain topics (per Bylaws Article IX.F). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Commissioners Robert Watters, Steve Caputo, and Brian Furness. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Emily Remington, Kimberly Rosenberg, Robert Simms, and Sidney Torres (or designee) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Team also included representatives from the City (Deputy Mayor Ryan Berni) and the NOPD (Ron Wishey). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Approved unanimously” means the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)