



**Security and Enforcement Committee
December 5, 2018 – 334 Royal Street**

MEETING NOTES

Meeting called to order by Robert Watters at 2:03 PM.

Introduction of attendees.

Committee members present: Steve Caputo, Gail Cavett, Beverly Fulk, Albin Guillot, Ann Kesler, Vincent Marcello, Brittany McGovern, Bob Simms, Mike Tilbury, Robert Watters.

Committee members absent: Bryan Drude, Dwyre McComsey.

Guests: Ethan Ellestad, Matthew Emory, Emily Remington, Officer Aldeane Valentino, Wade Yeomans.

November 2018 Meeting Notes were unanimously approved.

Discussion and finalization of SEC Mission Statement:

The Committee will advise the Board of Commissioners on security strategies that will improve public safety in the French Quarter.

Discussion and finalization of SEC Goals for 2019:

- 1) Enhance Quality of Life enforcement.**
- 2) Increase the number of private and public security cameras in the FQ.**
- 3) Investigate methods and technology to reduce number of guns on the street.**
- 4) Eliminate single officer FQTF shifts & increased supervision.**
- 5) Update the work scope for FQTF operations & administration.**

Watters and Simms agreed that an important item for January 2019 Meeting Agenda should be the updating of FQTF operations and administration, including ownership by Sidney Torres of the Task Force app. A formal Agreement should be written.

Discussion about the need to find other ways of obtaining funding from the City in order to reduce dependence on hotel taxing/New Orleans & Company. It would require showing our successes as well as specifying allocation of the monies to protect from repeating misdirection. We need to demand better accounting of where monies are being spent. Steve Caputo disclosed that money from the hotel tax has not been distributed to the City for some time because it is not being accounted for. Gail Cavett felt that FQMD should have the right to tell the City how we want the money spent. Watters pointed out that New Orleans & Company has a large portfolio of needs and that FQMD has never really fought for its share. Matt Emory advised that the City is currently focusing on finding funding for the Sobering Center by Mardi Gras time. It is budgeted for \$600M but security, transport and transport staffing is still not funded. There is a deficit of \$500,000, which needs to come from the private sector. Emory felt that FQMD should create a list of Sobering Center requirements.

Copies of the Draft Proposal by Interfor International, Emory's pick to conduct a security assessment of the 8th District, were distributed to Committee members. Emory explained that the objective would be to identify the resources, efficiencies and services being provided, as well as shortcomings, to determine a baseline. He advised that there is funding, then asked for discussion. Several members raised concern that the draft had not been distributed to Committee members for review prior to the meeting. Simms questioned why only one company's proposal was represented, not several. Emory stated that both Councilmember Palmer and Mayor Cantrell support an assessment. Watters read aloud several sections, and suggested that SEC could be helpful identifying resources to include in the assessment, possibly more than originally identified. He added that many people are unaware of the work SEC has done over the past five years; such an assessment could bring more awareness.

Because Emory wanted the draft presented to FQMD Commissioners at the January 2019 Board Meeting, Watters proposed that a SEC Special Meeting be held before that to work on wording. Cavett was extremely concerned that results of such an assessment could mean loss of Task Force coverage in the residential areas. Some thought if taken to the Board it should be limited to the French Quarter, while others did not due to the fact that surrounding areas can impact the French Quarter. Caputo reminded all that once an assessment is completed FQMD will own it, so decisions could be made at that time about actions to be taken.

Cavett asked for more time for the Committee to study the proposal before it goes to the Board and was told by Emory that could cause them to lose the funding window. Emory asked Emily Remington to distribute the proposal electronically to all SEC members.

Watters called for a vote on two resolutions:

Resolution No. 1: The Committee supports commission of a study analyzing the policing resources presently deployed in the 8th District, with emphasis on the French Quarter.

Resolution No. 2: SEC will work on the parameters with the idea of defining deliverables from the study and developing a vision of ideal police resources to be deployed in the French Quarter.

Both resolutions were passed by votes of 8-2.

Several Committee members expressed anger with the feeling that Board approval of this assessment study was being pushed through without ample time for Committee members to review or give an opinion, and that proper protocol of having a Committee vote before taking it to the Board was not followed.

The Special Meeting was set for January 7, 2019 at 2:00 PM.

Simms briefly showed a listing of all the variables required in enforcement, as well as the costs.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Notes compiled by Bev Fulk