

**Security and Enforcement Committee**

**Meeting Notes: June 19, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 2:06pm.

Committee members present:

Robert Watters, Co-Chair

Robert Simms, Co-Chair

Stephen Caputo

Gail Cavett

Albin Guillot

Brittany McGovern

Michael Tilbury (tardy)

Committee members absent:

Bryan Drude

Beverly Fulk

Ann Kesler

Vincent Marcello

Dwyre McComsey

Dennis Pearse

Guests:

Ethan Ellested

Susan Guillot

Emily Remington

Kendra Williams

Co-Chair Simms discussed the duties of the new daytime parking enforcement and expressed his hope that increased funding would allow for more allocated vehicle expenses for maintenance. Simms stated that potential suppliers for vehicle washing and detailing are in the process of being interviewed and bid and suggested that a vehicle replacement fund needs to be created. Simms stated that any residual would be used to put more officers on the street, that OPSE admin rates increased this year, and that Sidney Torres is currently incurring costs that FQMD should take on. Gail asked if the Board would approve a new budget at their July Board meeting. What is the greatest need?

A quorum became present; Caputo moved that the May meeting notes be approved. McGovern seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Simms described all of the FQ police resources dedicated to protecting the French Quarter. Simms presented data about the 8th District staffing plan, former and current (estimated); about the Louisiana State Police typical staffing, which is fewer personnel than before the EDD was passed; and about the French Quarter Task Force staffing plan. LSP adjusts its hours depending on the day of the week; Caputo asked whether LSP was keeping up their end of the EDD, and Simms said he believed they are.

Simms presented information on 1st Quarter vs. 2nd Quarter crime; 2nd Quarter crimes are elevated greatly. Simms conjectured that this is due to the increased police presence on Bourbon Street. Attendees discussed the continued problem of St. Louis Street, which is the only street that goes from the Quarter directly to Claiborne: it’s a getaway alley, and it crosses police districts.

Attendees discussed the $23M that the Convention Center gave to the City to invest in Bourbon Street infrastructure. Caputo said he would investigate the CVB funding, which he believed was strictly for the security plan and did not include street-level work. Attendees discussed funding levels and expected outcomes by funders.

Simms described the effectiveness of the Smart Car size. Caputo said that they are all over New York City, where he recently spent the weekend.

Simms presented information about app call locations. Daytime calls to Bourbon are usually related to aggressive solicitation, particularly “bucket kids.” Ethan Ellested stated that MACCNO is working on developing a program to get children into a mentorship program to push their enthusiasm towards musical and life skills. Simms reported that 308 app calls (more than 911 calls) have been placed since January 1 in the 800-1000 block of St. Louis; 158 were from the Double Play location. Simms provided information on the recent law enforcement raids of Double Play and Sing Sing.

Co-Chair Watters suggested additional enforcement patrols and established regular patrols for the benefit of all businesses and residents. Watters stated that the FQTF needs to ensure that it is not asking for favors or giving improper benefit: consistent patrols is part of the FQTF duty. Watters asked when we have a business that is the focal point of many app calls, how do we look at a permanent solution? Should Double Play change its business model or clientele? Should the Committee write to the property owner to communicate directly? Simms said that many of the app calls are initiated by the Double Play manager on duty. Simms suggested communication with the property owner. The Committee called for a resolution to write letters to the business owner and property owner detailing the 158 calls to alert him/her of this bad actors.

Tilbury discussed the problems that the Rouse’s on Royal Street perpetuates due to the access of liquor and permission of people to remain on property to consume it. Unique Grocery now has a 24-hour security detail which minimizes loitering; Rouse’s has limited security that really doesn’t do anything. In the past, when speaking to Rouses, they have said they’re not responsible for anything that happens on their sidewalk. Watters speculated that you can’t police your way out of a customer problem. Attendees agreed that the congregation of people is the issue. Rouse’s believes it’s an NOPD issue. Attendees discussed proposed solutions to the issue. Robert proposed a process for writing a letter from the Committee.

Emily presented May statistics on the FQTF. Attendees discussed aggressive solicitation issues and its effect on residents and visitors.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22pm.