



Monday, January 27, 2020
Antoine's Restaurant, Mystery Room
713 St. Louis Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Security and Enforcement Committee Meeting Notes

Members Present: Glade Bilby, Frances Hegenberger, Vincent Marcello, Beverly Fulk, Bob Simms, Stephen Caputo, Gail Cavett

Members Absent: Matthew Emory, Bryan Drude, Robert Watters, Brittany McGovern, Ann Kesler

Guests: Erin Holmes, Mike Ince, Cindy Legorreta, Karley D. Frankic

- A. The meeting was called to order 2:02 pm. Matthew Emory is ill today and therefore Gail Cavett will run the meeting as the newly appointed vice-chair.
- B. Attendees introduced themselves.
- C. Mr. Simms made the motion to approve the notes from the December 2019 meeting of the Security and Enforcement Committee. Ms. Hegenberger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- D. Ms. Cavett asked to amend the agenda hear Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) (French Quarter Task Force) 2019 statistics first. Mr. Bilby moved to amend the agenda accordingly, Ms. Hegenberger seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously.
- E. Mr. Simms provided the 2019 crime statistics and maps for the 8th District and the SPPP. The second quarter statistics were notably down from five years ago when the SPPP began. Most incidents in the third quarter happened late at night, or very early in the morning. The fourth quarter stats are off because of the cyber-attack on City Hall. The stats should be close from Bob's gathering of information. There were three shootings and fours stabbing; violent crime was down. The first three weeks of January show an uptick in shootings and stabbings. Mr. Simms gave details on the incidents that have occurred in January to date: 0 homicides, 2 armed robberies, 9 simple robberies, 6 shootings & stabbings. The crimes seem to be concentrated in the late hours, early morning.

Ms. Fulk mentioned that there seems to be a lot of personal beefs involved in these violent crimes.

Mr. Simms noted that prostitution is actually robbery in most cases. Once you get to 5 in the morning, there are very few officers on duty. Shift change for NOPD and LA State Police is 6:00 am. So officers are going back to the station and are not on the street.

Ms. Fulk asked why we discuss this at every meeting and it is still an issue?



Mr. Simms said that the new commander is paying closer attention to concentrations of incidents and is redeploying to address them, however something else will suffer to accommodate these changes. The LA State Police have been very good in filling the gap. SPPP and State Police are generally the first one to respond to a call when they come in. NOPD officers are often off the street writing reports. When the day watch comes in, they have to clear the backlog of paperwork before they can start their work.

Mr. Caputo said that all the paperwork, though necessary, is keeping the officers to

Ms. Cavett asked Mr. Simms to get the shifts and officer assignments from 8th District Commander Baldassaro and bring back to the committee.

Mr. Simms agreed to do this, but he said that the numbers are not necessarily accurate because of a number of issues, including officers in training, being out sick, or on military leave, or being put on desk duty. The NOPD is trying to get out of the consent decree. People get a lot of money out of doing what is required in the consent decree. NOPD has made changes recently in how they deploy. The 8th District is now divided into 3 sectors, 2 in CBD, and what is known as Sector 2 covers the entire French Quarter and the Marigny Triangle. There are usually 4 officers assigned to Sector 2 and they are not allowed to leave the sector unless there is a major incident, this is similar to how the SPPP patrols.

Ms. Holmes asked for quarterly tracking of sexual assaults that are happening in the French Quarter.

Mr. Simms stated that sex crimes are handled by the sex crimes unit and not by the 8th and so would not be recorded on the map.

Ms. Holmes said it would present a more realistic picture of what is happening in the Quarter to have that data.

Mr. Simms said that the crimes are still not being mapped since the cyber-attack.

Ms. Cavett asked Ms. Holmes if she could follow up with Cmdr. Baldassaro and bring the information back to the committee.

Mr. Simms reported that for 2019 there were 5239 app calls, 1032 dispatch calls, and 23947 self-initiated for 30219 total calls for service. 71 arrests, 151 apprehensions, 129 summons, 931 traffic citations including 44 oversize vehicle tickets. 8229 Subjects moved. 62462 patrol miles.

When the oversize vehicle law was passed, the fine was not registered with traffic court to be \$500. It has now been fixed.

Mayor Cantrell funded the Traveler sweeps every week and this has made a positive impact and is shown in the subjects moved statistics. The sheriff's office brings a van, SPCA participates, and NOPD is prepared to arrest subjects.



Mr. Bilby said that this goes to what we have said about enforcement being the key to making a change. It seems that most of the work is being done by SPPP and LA State Police, but these sweeps show the impact of NOPD on the street enforcing the law.

Mr. Simms noted that there was tons of police presence during the championship game, but the next day they were all gone.

Me. Caputo noted that this is why we need to get back to eh pre-Katrina numbers so that NOPD can meet the needs.

Mr. Simms present the SPPP summary to date statistics: 33,500 calls for service, 22482 app, 11015 dispatch, 1425 arrest & apprehensions, 1663 traffic citations, 901 summonses. 32295 subjects moved, 286348 miles, additional 18000 hours per years

Ms. Cavett said if you break down the cost of the SPPP it would be the equivalent of 65 regular NOPD officers.

Mr. Simms reported the operational expenses included \$34611.82 in 12 ,months on vehicle maintenance; averaging \$2,884.36/month.

Gasoline smart cars are going out of production. The SPPP started with Polaris's but acquired a couple of old NOPD electric cars. They were small, and quiet though they were hard to maintain. There is one Polaris left. The trouble is that the Polaris' are not all-weather and they are unpleasant when it is hot, cold, or raining. The Can-Am Defender has the amenities. They cost less than a Smart Car, about \$20,000. John Deere makes an equivalent Gator at about \$20,000. The nice thing about this type of vehicle is these do well on the rough French Quarter streets, can jump the sidewalk, and can be parked outside the police station. The full-size patrol cars are more expensive and less maneuverable. Whatever we choose needs to be street legal. Homeland Security has something like the Can-Am with two rows of seating.

Ms. Cavett asked Mr. Simms to do the research on the different vehicles and present at the next SEC meeting. Recommendation should come from the SEC to the Board. Can Mr. Simms work with Mr. Marcello?

Mr. Marcello said that the electric cars are too much maintenance. What is the maintenance figure for the Polaris, bring to the next meeting?

Mr. Simms noted that the Polaris mechanic will retrieve the vehicle for the maintenance. Want someone that is a service provider. This should be a criterion for which vehicle the SEC recommends to the Board.

Mr. Marcello and Mr. Caputo both noted that Chevy and Toyota make small cars that may be more substantial than the Polaris.



- F. Goals for 2020 were crafted at the last meeting and were presented to the Board this month. Ms. Cavett noted that every meeting the committee discusses the need for 65 officers, that 8th District remains lower than pre-Katrina number of 165. The FQMD SEC needs to convince the mayor of this need to increase the number of officers in the 8th District. The Quarter is supplemented with private patrols that are giving the allusion that there are enough officers, but this is not sustainable. Asked that everyone bring back ideas on how to demonstrate why the Quarter needs these officers, can email to Ms. Frankic to compile.

Mr. Marcello stated that it is all about the visibility of the officers on the street, making people feel safe to walk down the street and keep criminals at bay.

Ms. Cavett said we need to identify what patrols we have now and then start to analyze what they are doing and the effect they are having on crime and then compare that to what NOPD did when they were staffed at 165. We can then see if all of the private details are making up the difference from what NOPD did before.

Mr. Bilby said that the amount of money that FQMD pays for SPPP being the equivalent 65 NOPD salaries is evidence enough to show that the neighborhood is picking up the responsibility of NOPD.

Ms. Fulk said that all of the quality-of-life enforcement has gone by the wayside because of the officer cuts. NOPD is focused on the major crimes and there is no man power for quality-of-life anymore.

Ms. Cavett said that the SPPP got the funding for the traffic enforcement officer by showing the income generation possible from the deployment of this officer. We need to make a similar case for the increase of the 65 officers. We will continue brainstorming until we have a cohesive plan.

Mr. Caputo asked if the consent decree allowed for this increase on officers; might have to space out the increase over years to get back to the total number.

Ms. Cavett said that this is part of the research. Reach out to Melanie at Peace & Justice Foundation that does the training for the NOPD.

Mr. Simms said there are plenty of potential officers out there, but there is not the funds to pay for additional officers and training takes 6 months with only 30 being trained in each class so NOPD is limited on how many officers they can quickly bring on board.

Ms. Cavett explained that the SPPP is paid out of the voluntary hotel self-assessment and it took everybody contributing what they had into the mix for this to get traction.

Mr. Marcello asked if there was money found for the quality of life officers?

Ms. Cavett noted Cm Palmer asked for funds for two Quality-of-Life officers. However, the CEA prohibits the enforcement of laws related to ABOs, noise, and smoking ordinances. We don't



want to restrict how code enforcement is done in the Quarter. The CEA needs to be returned to the language that allows for all quality-of-life enforcement when the CEA is renegotiated this year.

Mr. Caputo noted that there are enough quality-of-life issues that we can be focused on despite that.

Goal to reduce guns in the French Quarter: Ms. Cavett said that this can be done down the line.

Mr. Caputo responded that this goal might possibly be able to get done more easily by amending local laws to increase fines. Do something with the laws that are currently on the books; and get a law on the books to prohibit within so many feet of an ABO; and pair the federal law that prohibits felon from carrying a weapon locally.

Mr. Simms will pull that law and bring to the next meeting.

Mr. Caputo recommend taking the federal law to the Mayor and City Council to advocate for the City to implement citywide, starting the Quarter.

Mr. Bilby noted that if the law already exists then supporting organizations will most likely get on board with advocating.

Mr. Simms noted a new technology that would use cell signals to detect crimes, he will bring more information to the next meeting.

Goal public safety barricades deployed: Mr. Marcello noted that the barricaded need to be put up on time and removed as well. Mr. Caputo noted that the yellow barricades on Iberville and Royal have been there for months and are now an attraction for garbage.

Mr. Bilby asked who was responsible for moving the barricades

Mr. Simms said that it is supposed to be Homeland Security

Ms. Frankic discussed the Improvement Fund progress

Ms. Cavett thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 3:16 adjourned.

The next meeting of the Security & Enforcement Committee shall be 17 February 2020.