



## Notes Security & Enforcement Committee Meeting

Monday, 18 May 2020  
2:10 to 3:10pm

Via Teleconference:  
<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1490383608>

Video:  
<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/personallink.html>

Meeting ID: 149 038 3608

Audio:  
+1 (469) 445 0100

I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Committee Members			
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent
Ann	Kesler	X	
Beverly	Fulk		X
Bob	Simms		X
Brittany	McGovern	X	
Bryan	Drude		X

Frances	Hegenberger		X
Gail	Cavett	X	
Glade	Bilby	X	
Matthew	Emory	X	
Robert	Watters	X	
Steve	Caputo	X	
Vincent	Marcello	X	

Guests		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Ross	Bourgeois	NOHSEP
Anthony	Caprera	NOPD 8th Captain

Erin	Holmes	VCPORA
Chris	Young	FQBL
Eric	Smith	City's FQIF Analyst
Karen	McNulty	Resident
Dave	Jorgensen	Resident

- II. Public Comment: Anyone who wishes to comment on actionable items must announce their name for the recording and indicate the item(s) on which s/he wishes to comment.
- III. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Emory thanked everyone for taking the time for attending under these stressful circumstances. He asked that the committee focus on actionable steps to move forward the security needs of the French Quarter. He noted that the funding lost for the FQMD-SPPP means the committee needs to reflect on what we can do to improve our process to get the group to take action quickly as we reevaluate positive actions we take and what can we contribute. There will be a fletter recovery period for the businesses

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and time to execute is immediate to renew the French Quarter Economic Development District that is expiring.

IV. Approval of April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting notes (action item)

Ms. McGovern moved and Mr. Watters seconded a motion to approve the April meeting notes and the motion passed unanimously.

V. French Quarter Crime Stats (Bob Simms)

Mr. Simms was not able to attend due to necessary repairs of FQMD-SPPP vehicles.

VI. Update on the French Quarter Improvement Fund (Karley D. Frankic)

- a. French Quarter Supplemental Police Patrol Program - French Quarter Task Force
- b. New Orleans Homeland Security Grounds Patrol Program

Ms. Frankic reported that the City has informed FQMD via email that they do not plan to support funding for the French Quarter Management District Supplemental Police Patrol Program, aka the French Quarter Task Force (SPPP), via the French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF). She read into the record an email to that effect and a memo from the City on the proposed replacement of the FQMD-SPPP by New Orleans Homeland Security Grounds Patrol (see attachment). The City is working with LA State Police Troop N (LSP) to continue funding with monies from the FQIF. The FQMD-SPPP is operating on a reduced deployment of one officer 24/7 and a second officer at night. This will deplete the SPPP account by February 7 of next year. FQMD has not received a revised FQIF budget from the City.

Mr. Watters said that he would like FQMD to ramp down the SPPP as the Grounds Patrol program ramps up and conserve some of the monies in that account to pay staff to address security issues beyond the SPPP. Ms. Cavett said she would not support that. Mr. Bilby questioned the increase in security in Armstrong Park and why the City would want to replace the successful SPPP with the unknown Grounds Patrol. Ms. Frankic explained the City's desire to have redundancy in Armstrong Park security paying a living wage and be more professional and reliable. Mr. Bourgeois said that the private security in Armstrong Park would be brought inhouse and would streamline the numbers. He conformed that they would not have police powers. Ms. Cavett and Mr. Watters asked for a budget, Mr. Bourgeois said that he did not have those figures. Private security is less expensive, but the City will be able to produce a better product. Mr. Smith is working on that budget. The plan is still relatively fluid as the City works out the program. Mr. Bourgeois reported that until 2017 there was no security in Armstrong Park and there was a fire in the municipal auditorium and the neighbors requested security and it has become much more utilized as a public space since then. Ms. Cavett asked why the City doesn't wait until the construction on the municipal auditorium to change the security program and use FEMA dollars instead of the FQIF? Mr. Bourgeois said that construction was a long way off and FEMA funds for construction could not be used for a security program. When construction becomes a reality, that conversation can be had. Ms. Laughlin questioned how the City will produce a better security product. Ms. Cavett said that while Armstrong Park is beautiful but is minimally utilized and has low level of serious crime and therefore the priority should be the thousands of people that live in the French Quarter. She would like to see the SPPP supported by

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the FQIF through 2021 while the Grounds Patrol works out the kinks in their new program and incorporate the best practices and knowledge that has been perfected by the SPPP. Mr. Bourgeois said that there will be a NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District on 24/7 to be a hybrid of the SPPP. Mr. Bilby noted that with diminished budgets he would like to see the numbers of patrols in the different patrol areas and how much each one costs so one can compare apples to apples. Mr. Bourgeois noted that the personnel from the French Market Corporation need to stay there and there will be economies of scale. They will be managed by supervisors with security background. Since there is no funding to sustain the SPPP the City is putting forward this new Grounds Patrol program. Mr. Smith is working on a way to finance it. The plan includes 24/7 police patrol supplemented by grounds patrol security. Mr. Emory noted that the City is dealing with an unprecedented financial shortfall and the City is doing the best they can with the reduced revenue and the SEC should do whatever they can to make the Mr. Bourgeois successful including using the French Quarter Security Assessment. Ms. Frankic delivered the security assessment to Joshua Cox of the mayor's office on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Smith said that is plan would be done in partnership with FQMD and welcome input. A draft budget will include a comparison with the existing staffing and funding streams.

Mr. Emory asked what would have to be done to reallocate any fund balance in the SPPP account? Ms. Frankic noted that this would have to be approved by the Board. **Ms. Frankic will work on a programmatic and financial scenario with Ms. Simms and Mr. Bourgeois as the two programs transition.** Ms. Cavett noted that the FQMD Board voted to continue the SPPP. Ms. Frankic clarified that Board voted to reduce the deployment at a special meeting on the Board of Commissioners in March and that the deployment would be revisited no later than the June Board meeting. Mr. Emory noted that the SPPP was reduced but not barebones. Mr. Emory recommended that the committee evaluate not depleting the SPPP account to zero, what are the recourse of suspending the SPPP. Mr. Watters noted that he preferred to have staff than an extra month of patrols to preserve the existence of FQMD. **Ms. Frankic said that she would have to review the CEA to see if the intended use for the SPPP monies was suspended, what would be the terms applicable.** Ms. Cavett questioned using SPPP dollars for staff. Mr. Emory clarified that there needs to be a plan to wind down the SPPP wisely. Mr. Watters noted that the restrictions on the funds are for security, not necessarily the SPPP, and there are multiple ways to address security. Ms. Cavett said that we don't know for sure that there will not be new funds in the FQIF, we are still allocating. She recommended that multiple scenarios be worked out in the Finance & Development Committee and be presented to the Board for review and discussion. Mr. Watters said that we need to plan for the worst case that FQMD does not get additional funding. Ms. Cavett hopes that the City give FQMD funding through 2021 for the SPPP and she will do everything in her power to promote that as an officer in a residential organization. **Mr. Emory will work with Finance & Development Committee to develop three financial models to present to the Board at the next meeting (June 8), including getting funding through 2021, the current burn rate if we stay on the current deployment plan, and one that steps down services as the City steps up services.** Mr. Smith addressed Ms. Cavett's statement that it is not certain that there would be no additional funding in the FQIF, by stating that barring a major change in the relationship between New Orleans & Company and the City, there is zero chance there will be any new funds in that account in January 2021.

VII. Update - Radius expansion of Illegal carry of firearms near an ABO

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Mr. Emory and Ms. Frankic have a call with Cm. Palmer's office on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the SEC's interest in increasing the radius around Alcohol Beverage Outlets (ABOs) prohibiting illegal firearms. This would be citywide but would have an enormous impact on the French Quarter with its concentration of ABOs. Mr. Emory wants this to be promoted to the community that the FQMD is still focused on safety with providing law enforcement with the tools to identify illegal guns. Mr. Watters and Mr. Caputo applauded the effort.

VIII. New Business (All)

Mr. Emory discussed that the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) sales tax expires this year and will require a public vote to renew. He stated that he has heard from multiple commanders of the 8<sup>th</sup> District that the LSP funded by the FQEDD that it was valuable. He is also concerned about businesses having to continue turning over this funding during the current financial crisis without the ability to alter use of those funds. This is an opportunity to shape how those funds are used. Ms. Cavett recapped that the FQEDD was passed by the registered voters within the district as a sales tax of \$0.25 on \$100 sale. The net revenues are deposited into the FQEDD Trust Fund for payment to the LSP. Mr. Caputo asked why this would be problematic for the business owners as this is a pass-through expense from the consumer? Mr. Emory noted that the out-the-door cost can be affected by the sales tax. That and some businesses are concerned about the accountability of the LSP. They recognize the value if it is appropriately deployed and this is the time to change the words of the agreement. Ms. Frankic reported concerns brought to her from the business community that when the tax becomes an issue is on big-ticket special events, like conferences and weddings – event spaces on the other side of Canal Street advertise that they can do the event cheaper because they do not have to charge the FQEDD sales tax. Mr. Smith reported that FQEDD funds must be put into the Trust Fund and cannot be mixed with the general fund. **The FQEDD Trust Fund is public record and Mr. Smith can share accounting with the FQMD in an effort for transparency.** Mr. Smith reported that City Hall shares these concerns about LSP monitoring, managing and deployment. There are questions about what a new CEA with the LSP would look like as it expires at the end of this year. The City wants to hear what changes the FQ community would like to see. Ms. Frankic suggested that there are concerns about the transparency of the LSP under the current structure, if the LSP was required to provide the full list of statistics provided through the Task Force app that may garner support. She asked if there is a new revenue projection of the FQEDD sales tax considering the reduced commercial activity in the French Quarter? Mr. Smith reported that the revenue forecasts are up in the air and it has not been done for this sales tax yet. **Mr. Smith will work on getting a FQEDD sales tax revenue projection from the Finance Department** but assumes they will be close to zero for the remainder of the year. Mr. Watters noted that when the FQEDD was created it was envisioned to be for a broader purpose than just funding the LSP. The FQEDD could be expanded and we could raise funds for uses other the LSP. The primary security in the French Quarter is the NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District and is the most effective and accountable. The FQEDD was created for a bigger purpose than just the LSP. Mr. Caputo asked if the sales tax could go beefing up the 8<sup>th</sup> District that would be ideal. Ms. McGovern noted that FQBA wants to be included in the reworking on the CEA because the

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association is interested in backing the FQEDD if there is more transparency and including the SPPP reporting standards. **Mr. Smith will include the all constituent groups in the Quarter to create a CEA that is amenable to all parties.** Mr. Emory noted that the City should consider using a portion of the FQEDD funds to pay for a sheriff's booking trailer at the 8<sup>th</sup> District to save officers from spending so much time transporting arrestees to the jail. The focus should be on supporting NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District. Ms Cavett, as an officer of a residential organization, reminded the committee that it is the residential voters that will vote on the renewal and therefore it is their voice that matters. Ms. Cavett has a number of suggestions she would personally like to see included in the CEA and FQMD can play a roll in that, but at the end of the day it's the decision of the residential voters. At the moment we know that there will not be near enough revenues to pay for the LSP. Mr. Watters noted that all FQMD needs for the SPPP is \$1.2M so in terms of \$5M the Quarter is paying LSP it seems like FQMD could be doing so much more with the FQEDD sales tax money.

Mr. Smith noted that the City is looking at \$150M shortfall at are not looking for an increase in traffic for the remainder of this year. Mr. Emory noted that this will impact business closures that the SEC will need to work on what this will need for crime, blight, etc. looking forward.

- IX. June meeting date  
The next meeting will be June 15<sup>th</sup>
  
- X. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.