

Agenda Security & Enforcement Committee Meeting

Monday, 20 July 2020
2:10 to 3:10pm

Via Teleconference:
<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/2047589217>

Meeting ID:
204 758 9217

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

Audio:
+1 (469) 445 0100

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:13 pm and the agenda was read into the record.
ROLL CALL:

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

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

GUESTS		
First	Last	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Juliet	Laughlin	Commissioner
Ross	Bourgeois	City NOHSEP
Jane	Cooper	Commissioner
Erin	Holmes	VCPORA
Chris	Young	FQ Business Alliance

- 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. Approval of June 16th meeting notes (action item)

Mr. Watters moved to approve the notes. Ms. Mulla McGovern seconded the motion and it was approved.

- IV. Committee Chair's Comments

Mr. Emory said that he commended all stakeholder for the investment of their time in making the goals of the committee a priority. We are in an unprecedented time in our history and now more than ever all members of the community put aside our differences and work together toward a successful future for the District. We have some challenges ahead of us and tough decisions to make. He appreciates everyone's efforts to achieve our goals.

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V. Report on July Board of Commissioners Motions by Karley D. Frankic

a. French Quarter Economic Development District Sales Tax Referendum

Ms. Frankic reported the Board of Commissioners moved to support the renewal of the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQ EDD) sales tax on the condition that funds come to the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) to be spent on public safety and quality of life. There are a group of commissioners that have been meeting with the City and their proposal is to have the sales tax go to the City to fund New Orleans Homeland Security (NOHSEP) Grounds Patrol to create a new blue light patrol to replace the FQMD Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) which uses the French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) app. The City has indicated that their budget for the NOHSEP budget would be \$1.2M and the role FQMD would have would be review the budget and make recommendations but would not have oversight authority over the spending of the funds. FQMD proposed that FQMD be what the City proposed as the new Advisory Committee because FQMD already has all of the stakeholders at the table and revenues generated over the \$1.2M for the NOHSEP Grounds Patrol would be controlled by FQMD to go towards public safety and quality of life initiatives. The City said they would discuss internally and get back to use by Wednesday. The FQMD team raised the concern that if the renewal of the sales tax does not happen then both the Louisiana State Police and the SPPP would go away. And public safety is paramount to the residents and businesses alike.

b. Support for Black Lives Matter Movement, Racial Equality & Bias-Free Policing

Ms. Frankic reported that Board of Commissioners approved the motion put forth by the Security & Enforcement Committee. The FQMD supports the Black lives matters movement and dedicate ourselves to racial equality and abide by bias free policing in our SPPP.

c. French Quarter Physical Security Assessment Executive Summary

Ms. Frankic reported that the Board of Commissioners approved a motion to release the public facing Interfor International French Quarter Physical Security Assessment Executive Summary. It will be released as soon as possible.

VI. Report on French Quarter Crime Stats by Robert Simms

Mr. Simms reported that the SPPP has been staffed at 94% in June. 118 calls for service: 90 were app calls and 28 dispatch calls. Most were related to the remaining homeless and mentally ill people and other quality of life complaints and those about social distancing. In June there was very little serious crim in the District but that has started to change in July. There is more pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Mr. Simms presented the second quarter app statistics and provided highlights to calls for service.

Mr. Emory asked if FQMD had renewed the licensing agreement. Mr. Simms said no. SDT Productions was now negotiating with the City to use the app for their plan to create a NOHSEP Grounds Patrol program. The price will be the same as what was presented to FQMD. But that could change as for how the City wants to use the app.

Mr. Bourgois confirmed that the City has the licensing agreement and it is going through procurement and legal review. It is the City's intention that if the process progresses they will not change the app.

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VII. Discussion of Supplemental Police Patrol Program Deployment Plan & Budget

Mr. Emory said that the Board will revisit the deployment plan at the next board meeting. Ms. Frankic confirmed that the board has kept the deployment as is until circumstances change. She noted that Mr. Simms had suggested that if further cost savings were needed perhaps the G4S contract could be cut. This was directed to the Security and Enforcement Committee to evaluate. G4S costs approximately \$1,300 per week.

Mr. Simms asked how far we can go under the current rate? Ms. Frankic responded that the current funds will be depleted by early February under the current plan. Mr. Simms said that any savings we make will extend that. Ms. Frankic confirmed that.

Ms. Frankic said that the \$1M appropriation from House Bill 1 was for Katrina CDBG-DR and would be a long and arduous process and may not be possible to meet this need.

Mr. Simms recommended that G4S does not provide services that he does not have to review and correct regularly. Therefore cutting their contract will not add much work to his responsibilities as the coordinator. Ms. Frankic reported that we are on a month to month engagement with G4S. She requested that Mr. Simms work with her to still review the daily reports.

Ms. Cavett made the motion for the purpose of preserving funds to extend the viability SPPP to recommend to the board of commissioners to pursue the suspension of services of G4S with the investigation to terminate services immediately. Mr. Simms seconded the motion and it was approved.

VIII. Community Engagement discussion with the respect to accountability language attached to future EDD Tax spending

Mr. Emory gave an update that the FQMD is seeking the renewal of the FQ EDD. The current CEA was not adhered to. FQMD is seeking a more active role in the accountability in how this tax is spent. There will probably be a special meeting to get all of the stakeholders to the table. This is an investment that the Quarter is making in a difficult time so it will take the effort of all of the stakeholders to see this through for the benefit of this mutual long term goal.

Ms. Frankic reported that FQMD has had three meetings with the Mayor's senior staff about the renewal of the EDD. As of this time the City sees FQMD's role is as recommendary only. FQMD is advocating to have a more active role. While the City suggests creating a new advisory committee, not-binding, that committee would here reports from the City. The City does not seem to care to have FQMD play an active role in how the deployments are managed, that there be any recourse if the stakeholders did not feel the program was running appropriately, or have FQMD play an active role in managing the fund. There is concern from the business and residential community that the City has not been transparent in its management of the FQ EDD Trust Fund or the French Quarter Improvement Fund, by not providing Profit & Loss Statements or Balance Sheets. Whereas FQMD has run accepted program for supplemental patrols using the Task Force app. There is a concern that if the City puts forth a ballot referendum without the checks and balances of FQMD than the referendum will fail in the voting booth.

Mr. Simms reported that there were 280+ hours of post certified officer supplemental hours prior to COVID. Now there is about half that amount. He is concerned that if these numbers are reduced the French Quarter will go back to the crime issues that existed five years ago. Mr. Emory echoed this concern and noted that NOPD reliance

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on supplemental patrols has been repeated by several 8th District captains. He is focused on assuring that there is accountability in the new CEA.

Mr. Bourgeois said that he does not speak for the administration, but FQMD's board brings together all of the stakeholders and he has no objection to FQMD's involvement. He said that it is important to note that the City's plan is a hybrid plan in grounds patrol officers that are non-post certified, armed security officers, but it also includes one NOPD officer one hour per day. This might be increased to two and stay within budget. All options are still on the table.

Ms. Cavett asked when the City is going to get back to FQMD and are they open to FQMD to make suggestions about accountability using the tools that we have refined in the new program. Ms. Frankic noted that the conversations did not get into the nuances. She said she has pushed to get more specific details pinned down from the City. Ms. Frankic recommended that FQMD host a public meeting to provide the background and the proposals for moving forward. It has been challenging to get the City to finalize their plan to share with the voters. We should get this to the voters as soon as possible so that they can give feedback to their elected officials. The 2015 ballot language says only Public Safety. The details were spelled out in a CEA with the State Police that was finalized a month before the election so voters knew what they were voting upon.

Mr. Emory said that if the City is agnostic about the tax being passed then we would need to push for the FQMD to administer the Trust Fund with a CEA with the City. Mr. Bourgeois said that ballot language would be accompanied with an ordinance that is where the oversight will be spelled out. Mr. Emory said that while the committee supports some of the City's proposal, they have experienced a lack of accountability in previous agreements. When the French Quarter is going through such a difficult time accountability is not that much to ask for.

Mr. Emory reiterated that stakeholder engagement is vital to a successful process. Mr. Bilby agreed that community wants to support this but with news stories related to waste, lack of accountability and transparency, and now a question about post-certification is going to be a importance to the voters. And this information needs to be hammered out for voters to understand. Ms. Frankic said that is important for the stakeholders to tell their elected officials in the administration and the council what they want to see on the ballot in order to approve this in the voter booth.

IX. New Business

X. Next meeting date: August 17th

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Caputo made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bilby seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.