

# French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, 11 January 2021

2:10 pm – 3: 27 pm

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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

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### Commissioners Present:

Susan Klein  
Heidi Raines  
David Bilbe

Jane Cooper  
Gail Cavett  
Christian Pendleton  
Frank Zumbo

Steve Caputo  
Robert Watters  
Mamie Gasperez

**Commissioners Absent:** Jeremy DeBlieux, Matthew Emory

**Executive Director:** Karley Frankic

### Guests:

Bob Simms, FQTF  
Erin Holmes, VCPORA  
David Speights, NRMSI  
Paul Rioux, BGR Research analyst  
Amy Stelly, VCPORA  
Dave Minsky- FQ Blog  
Glade Bilby, FQC  
Dave Jorgensen, Livability Comm.

Brittany McGovern, FQBA  
Andrew Sullivan, CM Palmer, Chief of Staff  
Bridget Neal, LA Lt. Gov. Consultant  
Ross Bourgeois, NOHSEP  
Unidentified Caller from 504-669-1070  
Chris Young, FQBL  
Chuck Bracht, VCPORA

- I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES – Chairman Pendleton called the meeting to order at 2:13 pm, Ms. Frankic read the Agenda as noticed and Ms. Klein called the roll.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT: Written public comments and live comment requests should be submitted electronically via email to [publiccomments@fqmd.org](mailto:publiccomments@fqmd.org). Emailed public comments will be accepted from the time the agenda is released until conclusion of its reading. Emailed public comment received after the reading of the agenda will not be considered. Each submission must contain: 1) the commenter's first and last name, 2) the commenter's address, 3) whether the commenter is being paid in connection with his or her comments, and 4) the agenda item to which the comment pertains. Any public comment

submission or live comment request missing this information will not be read aloud or recognized for live comment. Live comment during a teleconference meeting via the following formats shall be accepted:

- Electronically raise their hand to request to comment. Upon being recognized to speak by the chair their microphone should be turned on. After speaking the microphone shall be returned to mute.
- Post comments relevant to the action item in the ‘Chat Box’.
- Live comment speakers will be given two minutes to comment. The speaker may be muted by the moderator at the conclusion of the two-minute limit.

There were no public comments.

III. DECEMBER REGULAR AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: Ms. Klein Ms. Cooper motioned (**M1**) to “approve the December 14 and December 31, 2020 Board Minutes as corrected and submitted...”, seconded by Ms. Raines and unanimously approved.

IV. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF December 2020 TREASURER’S REPORT – Ms. Frankic reported for Mr. DeBlieux - The Balance Sheet shows the SPPP account at \$106,770.99, the General Operating account at \$196,020.63 and the FQMA account at \$2,831.68 for a total of \$305,623.30. There is a zero balance in Account Receivables, and Total Liabilities and Equity at \$321,358.43. Ms. Klein motioned (**M2**) to “approve the December 2020 Treasurer Reports as submitted...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo and unanimously approved.

V. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS – Mr. Pendleton

- a. Update on the status of the Licensing Agreement with SDT Productions - He reported there was a very positive meeting with Mr. Torres, Councilmember Palmer, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Simms. Councilmember Palmer apologized to Mr. Simms regarding her newsletter comments and he agreed it was time to move forward. There was a candid conversation on the way to move forward. Mr. Torres agreed with our concerns and he is willing to be supportive in this movement and Mr. Simms was willing to do the same. The application licensing agreement was submitted with the request to review in Executive Session due to proprietary information. Our attorney is reviewing this request for public meeting law compliance.
- b. 2021 Chairman’s Goals
  - i. Develop a new CEA with our stakeholders and the City to move forward and continue services at the highest level.
  - ii. Work with the City to identify new sanitation and cleanliness standards for the new French Quarter sanitation contract.
  - iii. Work with the State legislature to understand the importance of FQMD and to receive annual State funding to make our neighborhood the best it can be.
  - iv. Identify and build relationships with French Quarter residents, businesses, and employees not yet represented by our organizations and seek their involvement.
  - v. Strengthen our relationship with our stakeholder and supporting organizations.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – Ms. Frankic noted the Committee Chairs shall report on their

work products from the past month and she used her report to detail progress that is separate and apart from those reports.

- a. Administrative - The past month has been busy wrapping up year-end reports, bookkeeping and preparing the new year's Committee and Board reporting obligations. The 2020 audit will be starting shortly, and the Board should expect to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire at the next meeting. The Board and Committee meetings for 2021 were sent out. The incoming committee leadership will be reporting on their pro-active annual goals.
- b. Public Safety - Through the Christmas holiday, negotiations to carry forward the terms of the expiring Cooperative Endeavor Agreement which the Board approved extending via a letter of agreement culminated in the affirmative vote of the December Special Board Meeting on New Year's Eve. That agreement was sent to City Hall before the close of the year and has been routed through the City Attorney and pertinent departments for the Mayor's signature. Her last few weeks have been preparing for and taking over the responsibilities of the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) coordination as Mr. Simms has resigned from his volunteer responsibilities. This has been challenging but she thanked our partners at the Office of Secondary Employment and the NOPD 8th District for stepping up to assure that FQMD can continue to provide supplementary officers to patrol the neighborhood. As the Board looks to next steps, it will be essential to plan for additional funding and hiring of personnel to assure the sustainability of the program.
- c. Meetings attended:
  - 12/15 MAX Meeting
  - 12/15 Truck & Oversized Vehicles Neighborhood Leadership
  - 12/16 Government Affairs Committee Meeting
  - 12/17 New Orleans & Company Annual Business Meeting
  - 12/21 Security & Enforcement Committee Meeting
  - 12/22 Cm. Palmer meeting with District C Leadership
  - 12/30 Met with NOPD 8th District leadership regarding SPPP coordination
  - 12/30 Met with Mr. Simms & Ms. Cavett regarding his transition
  - 12/31 FQMD Special Board Meeting
  - 1/5 MAX Meeting
  - 1/5 Finance & Development Committee Meeting
  - 1/6 Livability Committee Meeting
  - 1/7 Business Council of New Orleans Criminal Justice Task Force briefing
  - 1/8 Met with Cm Palmer, Mr. Torres, Simms, & Pendleton on the future of FQ supplemental security

## VII. REPORT BY CHAIR, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Ms. Raines

- a. Presentation of Public Records Policy for consideration by the Board – This was developed from reviewing other State agencies and the State Attorney General. A personal photo ID is required, but this information will not be archived. See Annex I for the policy details. Ms. Klein motioned (M3) to “approve the Public Records Policy as presented and detailed in Annex I of these minutes...”, seconded by Mr. Caputo and unanimously approved.
- b. Presentation of 2020 Annual Report for consideration by the Board – The full report may be found at [www.fqmd.org](http://www.fqmd.org).
- c. 2021 Finance & Development Committee Goals
  - i. Organization Structure: Continue to improve the organizational structure of the FQMD through policy and procedure adoption, and operational strategy.

- a) Commissioner Qualification Verification Policy & Procedure
- b) Public Records Request Policy
- c) Committee Structure & Purpose
- d) Review and Recommend Organizational Staffing and Structure to achieve FQMD objectives.
- e) More to be added throughout 2021
- ii. Financial Analysis and Budgeting for FQMD Contracting
  - a) CEAs
  - b) Potential Funding
  - c) Vendors
- iii. Special Projects as Determined by the Board, Board Chair or Committee Chairs

VIII. REPORT BY CHAIR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Vice-Chair Cavett for Mr. DeBlieux

a. 2021 Government Affairs Committee Goals

- i. Reintroduce the French Quarter Economic Development District sales tax for supplemental safety with funds coming to the FQMD through a ballot initiative in April.
- ii. Work on Louisiana State funding through the Lieutenant Governor’s office.
- iii. Work towards permanent State funding through the legislature.
- iv. Explore grant opportunities for additional funding.
- v. Negotiate a new Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the French Quarter Museum Association.

IX. REPORT BY CHAIR, LIVABILITY COMMITTEE – Ms. Gasperecz

a. Committee Nominations

- i. Commissioner David Bilbe
- ii. Mr. Frank Perez, a local author, resident, and tour guide company owner and known by both Commissioners Cooper and Gasperecz.
- iii. Ms. Cooper motioned (**M4**) to “approve Mr. Bilbe and Mr. Perez as members of the Livability Committee...”, seconded by Ms. Gasperecz and unanimously approved.

b. Presentation of 2020 Sidewalk Assessment Report – Assistance may be possible from Tulane University School of Preservation interns. Mr. Jorgensen noted interns are working on the lighting survey. For the sidewalk survey the metrics and pictures demonstrate our sidewalks are very bad and unsafe. Ursuline and Governor Nicholls streets are the worst. Responding to Mr. Caputo, the next steps will be to work with the VCC and other City departments to rectify the problems. Ms. Cooper said there is a tremendous amount of required recall work from previous jobs. Mr. Jorgensen said as we walk around and notice these problems to attempt a conversation with the top site manager if it is a work in process and inform Ms. Frankic and Ms. Gasperecz of the contact. Ms. Cavett shared the mechanism for City engagement on all infrastructure projects.

c. 2021 Livability Committee Goals – Ms. Gasperecz noted each of these goals were specifically designed to engage more individuals, partners, and funding sources to promote success.

- i. CLEANLINESS: Work for improved sanitary conditions throughout the French Quarter
  - a) Work with the City Sanitation Department to proactively develop programming

- that best serves the unique nature of the French Quarter.
- i) Update and improve the expiring Sanitation Contract
  - ii) Identify means to supporting robust enforcement by a Sanitation Ranger(s)
- b) Keep the Quarter Clean Campaign
- i) The intent of the program is maintaining a higher level of cleanliness than before the COVID-19 shutdown with all stakeholders feeling a sense of ownership in promoting the Keep the Quarter Clean campaign and driving concerns to the survey tool to inform future programming.
  - ii) Launch with a full breadth of physical and virtual installations including website and social media platforms.
- ii. SOUND: Identify opportunities to address challenges related to sound impacts on the diverse cross-section of stakeholders in the French Quarter.
- a) Work with the City Department of Utilities and the Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) to assure that new Small Cell technology installations proceed through the appropriate historical reviews and complement the French Quarter tout ensemble.
  - b) Bring stakeholders together with the City Department of Health to improve the existing sound ordinance into a fair and enforceable instrument.
- iii. FOOTPRINT: Identify new partnership opportunities to benefit the neighborhood
- a) Work with the Downtown Development District to complete a full assessment of the 100 blocks to include:
    - i) Building use types
    - ii) Occupancy status
    - iii) Infrastructure conditions
    - iv) Opportunities for activation
  - b) Façade: Work with our partners to activate vacant storefronts to provide a feeling of activity and safety to pedestrians. Use the Main Street model for activating commercial storefronts with art and lighting to provide ambient sidewalk lighting and provide a sense on vitality on the street.
  - c) Work with the State Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Arts Council and French Quarter Museum Association to provide well lit, gallery style installations inside vacant storefront and provide opportunities to local artisans.
- iv. INFRASTRUCTURE: Improve existing assessment programs and develop new programming with FQMD's partners to address French Quarter infrastructure challenges.
- a) Sidewalks: Build on the 2020 Committee Work to implement solutions to identified problems
    - i) Promote the improved 2020 Sidewalk Survey to build awareness of deteriorated conditions
    - ii) Pursue funding to repair the findings of the 2020 Survey
    - iii) Work with the Vieux Carré Commission and its Foundation to assure installation of proper historically appropriate sidewalk materials
  - b) Lighting: Work for lighting improvements that offer historically appropriate installations that provide a sense of security and place.
    - i) Street Light Assessment

- (a) Work with university interns to have an experiential education in practical application of historic preservation and urban plan by surveying existing lighting conditions.
    - (b) Revisit VCC Lighting Assessment for recommendations that overlay with the output from the intern program
  - ii) Vestibule Lighting Grant Program
    - (a) Work with the VCC and its Foundation (VCCF) to identify energy efficient, dusk-to-dawn, historically appropriate lighting fixtures that would be pre-approved by the Commission.
    - (b) Work with the local utility company to provide resources for grantees
    - (c) Identify unlit or underlit private properties that would benefit from improved vestibule lighting
    - (d) Work with the New Orleans Home Builders Association to identify licensed, insured, and pre-approved contractors
  - c) Drainage: Investigate storm drain scoping and repair options to address the increased flooding throughout the French Quarter.
- iv. TRANSPORTATION: Develop opportunities for fair and equitable transportation for those who live, work, and visit the French Quarter.
  - a) Work with the Regional Transit Authority and the Downtown Development District to reestablish the shuttle/mini-bus French Quarter route.
  - b) Work with Bike Easy and New Orleans Complete Streets to identify opportunities to improve bicycle safety infrastructure and off-site vehicular parking.
  - c) Work with the Department of Public Works to identify practical, implementable initiatives for the French Quarter Slow Zone.
    - i) North Rampart traffic calming measures designed and implemented to reduce multi-modal collisions
    - ii) Sign installation that includes “do not enter” signage to minimize wrong way collisions.
    - iii) Assure new installations are co-located to minimize intrusions in the public right-of-way and visual clutter.

***Meeting leadership transferred to Vice-Chairperson Raines at 3:08 pm***

- X. REPORT BY CHAIR, SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE – Ms. Frankic for Mr. Emory
  - a. Presentation of 2020 Supplemental Police Patrol Program Report - Mr. Simms noted because of less visitor use, safety calls and arrests were down in 2020 with vehicle milage remaining the same. The year-end review may be found at Annex II.
  - b. Review of Supplemental Police Patrol Program deployment plan as per the 6/15/2020 Board Motion - One daytime and two evening officers shall remain on duty, subject to future review.
  - c. 2021 Security & Enforcement Committee Goals – Ms. Frankic
    - i. Restore the New Orleans Police Department 8TH District officer count to the pre-Hurricane Katrina count of 165 fulltime officers

- ii. Increase FQTF revenue via consolidating security services
- iii. Launch legal and/or material initiatives to reduce illegal guns within the district
- iv. Ensure that the crash rated impact bollards on Bourbon Street and traffic barricades on Royal Street are deployed on a daily schedule and on emergency basis
- v. Develop list of actionable items from Security Assessment and execute items on the list
- vi. Work with the 8th District to continue to improve the Bourbon Street Promenade
- vii. Expand the foundation of data related to economic impact of the French Quarter
- viii. Address homeless assistance needs to inform needed programming for that population

#### XI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Public Comment on EDD - Ms. Neal a French Quarter resident asked what the specific ballot language would be on the FQ EDD sales tax, was it submitted first for public comment and how the City felt about a new CEA? Ms. Frankic responded that Councilmember Palmer is the signatory for the CEA, since the City Council is the governing authority. The new language was discussed in a meeting with herself, Mr. Simms, Mr. Torres, Mr. Pendleton and Councilmember Palmer and her staff. There has been a lot of fine tuning and the latest draft came in during this meeting and it shall be distributed to the Commissioners for review after this meeting. FQMD cannot comment for any other public body. Mr. Sullivan, Councilman Palmer's Chief of Staff responded that they have complied with the notice law on this and they are engaging stakeholders to the best of their ability given this very short timeline.
- b. Ms. Cavett complemented Ms. Raines and Ms. Frankic on the excellent annual report. Ms. Raines thanked Ms. Frankic for all her efforts in producing this at year end.

#### XII. NEXT MEETING DATE: 8 February 2021

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Ms. Cooper motioned to “adjourn the January 2021 Regular Meeting of the FQMD Commission at 3:27 pm...”, seconded by Ms. Klein and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary

Annex I: Public Records Request - VII. a. *pages 7-8*

Annex II: SPPP Year End Report - X. a. *pages 8-9*

## PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

As an independent political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, the Board of Commissioners of the French Quarter Management District complies with Public Record Law, La. R.S. 44.

TO SUBMIT A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW.

You may also submit your request via First-Class Mail addressed to:

Custodian of Records  
French Quarter Management District  
400 N. Peters Street, Suite 206  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Requests for public records are processed during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please see the fee schedule below for fees relating to the duplication of requested records. The Custodian will contact you regarding any applicable fees prior to processing your request.

Per La. R.S. 44:32(A) and La. Atty. Gen Op. No. 17-0056 proof of identification, such as a driver's license, to verify the age and identification of the person making the public records request is required.

If you have any additional questions, please email [info@fqmd.org](mailto:info@fqmd.org).

### FEES:

Paper: \$0.50 per page (up to 8½"x14", 1-sided)  
\$0.50 per page (up to 11"x17", 1-sided)  
\$1.10 per page (up to 24"x36", 1-sided)

Electronic: Base fee of \$25

Delivery: Additional delivery/postage fees may apply depending on form and/or bulk of delivery.

Additional Fees: Additional service fees may apply depending on the scope of the request. For requests which require the FQMD to spend considerable time (greater than 60 minutes) in compiling and reproducing the records, additional labor costs of \$40/hour may apply for processing the request.

An estimate will be provided to the requester prior to the processing of the request. Once the records are compiled the Custodian of Records will invoice the requester. Payment must be received prior to release of records.

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## FQ TASK FORCE SUMMARY - 2020

During 2020, while conducting proactive "blue light" crime deterrent patrols, the FQTF responded to 2,817 Calls for Service comprising 2,348 App Calls and 469 Dispatch Calls. The Officers made 129 arrests and apprehensions, issued 346 summons & traffic violations, and drove 59,441 miles.

Staffing for the first 3 months was the same as 2019 but due to the impact of COVID-19 on the hospitality industry they could no longer provide the funding going forward. That resulted in scaling back the patrols in order to extend the coverage to the end of the year. This resulted in over 5,000 fewer patrol hours than in 2019. Starting in April just one officer was on patrol between 3am and 7pm and 2 officers between 7pm and 3am. Due to the failure to pass the Quarter for the Quarter sales tax renewal the first few months of 2021 will be at a similar lower than required staffing level.

### ***FQTF App Summary***

Citizens continued using the FQ Task Force App 2,348 times to report calls for service. The 5 most common

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complaints were Disturbances, Assaults & Fights (29%) following by Suspicious Person reports (22%), then Obstruction of Public Passageway (16%), Aggressive Solicitation (13%) and Drug Dealing (12%).



The FQTF App is also used to provide accountability and oversight along with electronic trip sheets and timesheets.

End of shift reports can easily be run to assess if the officers are proactively patrolling their assigned area of the Quarter. It's not unusual for the nighttime officers to drive 30 miles on a 4 hour shift. These "blue light" patrols are greatly appreciated by residents and service workers and play a large part in helping NOPD deter crime.

### ***Crime Trend***

During 2020, person crimes in the Quarter continue to be at a much lower level than 5 years ago - a testament to the effectiveness of the 8th District NOPD, Louisiana State Police Troop N and the French Quarter Task Force. The last 9 months of 2020 saw a dramatic reduction in the number of visitors, service workers and even residents in the French Quarter. That reduced population provided fewer opportunities for criminal activity.

### ***Community Engagement***

The FQTF Officers are known by name to many citizens who live or work in the French Quarter and Officers during 2020 made 5,050 Citizens contacts and 2,543 business checks. Flag downs occur frequently. App calls about subjects blocking the sidewalk or sleeping in alcoves and doorways are a frequent complaint. In the last 69 months the FQTF has moved 34,160 subjects - most of these have been requested to moved multiple times and most comply. Many of these subjects have nowhere to sleep as there are insufficient shelter beds for our homeless population. A destination location is required where they can safely sleep, have access to restrooms and showers and get the help they need to rebuild their lives.

### ***FQTF Vehicle Summary***

The FQTF has a fleet of 4 vehicles - 3 Smart Cars and 1 Polaris. The oldest Smart Car has been driven over 76,000 miles and will soon need to be replaced. The other 2 Smart cars have 61,602 and 46,095 miles on their odometers. The Polaris has been in service for almost 6 years and has been driven 45,718 miles - a very high mileage for this type of vehicle.

These 4 vehicles prove daily the advantage of using a small car to patrol the narrow streets of the Quarter.

### ***FQTF Program Statistics – Inception to Date***

Since inception in March 2015, the FQTF has responded to 36,317 calls for service (24,833 app calls and 11,484 dispatch calls); made 1,557 arrests and apprehensions and issued 3,038 summons and traffic citations. In the 57 months of operations the FQTF drove 345,789 miles proactively patrolling the Quarter; almost 14 times the circumference of the world.

### ***Outlook for 2021***

Violent crime across the City is on the rise and the French Quarter may see similar trends once the Quarter is fully open for business. With the loss of LSP Troop N and the understaffed 8th District NOPD, the French Quarter Task Force staffing levels need to be significantly increased as soon as possible.

### ***Closing Remarks***

I'm very proud to have closely worked with the men and women of the New Orleans Police Department for the last 6 years. I'm also very appreciative of the hospitality industry who have provided the funding for the last 5 years and to Sidney Torres for his vision to create this program and for his continuing financial investment to keep and enhance the FQ Task Force App. Thanks also to FQMD for the fiscal and operational oversight they have provided.

I sincerely hope that the French Quarter Task Force can be expanded and that the FQTF, its App, and it's very successful Blue Light patrols can be integrated into the NOPD and continue to help keep the Quarter safe.

Regards,  
Bob Simms  
FQTF Coordinator (2015-2020)