



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, 14 June 2021

2:00 – 3:32 pm

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

Commissioners Present:

Susan Klein
Heidi Raines
Bob Simms

Jane Cooper
Gail Cavett
David Bilbe
Matthew Emory

Steve Caputo
Jeremy DeBlieux
Frank Zumbo

Commissioners Absent: Christian Pendleton, Mamie Gasperecz, Robert Watters

Executive Director: Karley Frankic

Guests:

Eric Smith, CNO, CAO, FQIF
David Speights, NRMSI
Beverly Faulk

Erin Holmes, VCPORA
Bridget Neal, FQ Resident
Stan Harris, LRA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES** – Vice-Chairman Raines called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Ms. Frankic read the Agenda as noticed and Ms. Klein called the roll.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Public Comment Policy can be found at <https://www.fqmd.org/public-comment-policy>. Written public comment may be submitted electronically via email to publiccomments@fqmd.org. Live comment requests should be registered on comment cards and submitted to the Board Chair.
- III. **MAY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:** Ms. Klein Mr. Caputo motioned (MI) to “approve the May 10, 2021 Board Minutes as submitted...”, seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.
- IV. **PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MAY 2021 TREASURER’S REPORT** –Mr. DeBlieux

- a. Financials - The Balance Sheet shows the SPPP account at \$4,202.82, the General Operating account at \$144,398.88 and the FQMA account at \$9,595.11 for a total of \$158,196.81. There is a zero balance in Account Receivables, and Total Liabilities and Equity is \$166,165,96. The Accounts Payable is current at \$0.00. Profit and Loss is \$-4,304.53. Mr. Simms motioned (M2) to “approve the May Treasurer Reports as submitted...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo and unanimously approved with the exception of Mr. Bilbe abstaining since he was not present for the report presentation. *The Treasurer’s Report is posted to the FQMD website.*

V. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS – Ms. Raines for Mr. Pendleton

- a. Update on the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) Sales Tax Election: Here are the touch points since the last Board Meeting:

- May 12 - email received from District C regarding Mayoral CEA concerns.
- May 17 – In-person meeting with the Mayor her personal attorney and staff, including Chief Ferguson which resulted in agreement of terms and a recap sheet provided by Mr. Josh Cox. This left only a few items to be worked out between the attorney’s, FQMD attendees were Chairman Pendleton, Commissioner Klein, and Executive Director Frankic. Councilmember Palmer and her staff also were in attendance.
- May 19 - Term Sheet received.
- May 21 - FQMD responded to the term sheet.
- May 27 - FQMD counsel Ms. Sharonda Williams received a call from the City Attorney.
- June 1- FQMD received a CEA via Ms. Williams Sharonda from the City Attorney which did not include all the terms agreed upon at the May 17 meeting as listed in the May 19 term sheet generated by Mr. Cox and introduced new terms with the FQMD-specific edits from the FQMD stakeholders which were left out. Some of these FQMD edits included patrol information including minimum numbers, patrol vehicles and patrol zones.
- June 1 - Ms. Williams requested a meeting with the City Attorney.
- June 7 - Ms. Williams received a City Attorney email regarding the terms.
- June 8 - Ms. Williams made another request for a City Attorney meeting.
- June 11 – Ms. Williams and Ms. Frankic met over the phone with City Attorney’s office.

SUMMARY - The City Attorney:

- i. Recognized that the ordinance for the ballot language is not aligned in the definitions and they will revise.
- ii. Demanded FQMD provide an Attorney General opinion that okays the use of funds for the FQMD administrative fee. Ms. Williams sent a past opinion to the City that Friday afternoon and the City acknowledged receipt of it.
- iii. The Agreement Monitors shall be as noted from the term sheet.
 - Designee of the Mayor
 - NOPD 8th District Commander or the NOPD Superintendent's designee
 - FQMD Chair
 - FQMD Vice-chair
 - District C City Council representative
 - City Council President
- iv. Ms. Williams insisted the “termination for convenience” remain but be equitable to both parties.
- v. The Administration want an equal voice for budgeting. The City Attorneys want to be able to bypass FQMD approval and appeal directly to the FQEDD. If FQMD does not

- approve the CAO's budget on the first round. It was discussed that a revised budget would need to be presented back to the FQMD Board or FQMD would be able to appeal directly to the FQEDD. *This is still an unresolved topic.*
- vi. Resolved - NOPD will select the Supervisor and notify FQMD and FQEDD.
 - vii. The Administration will not agree to having two party approval of expenditures out of the Trust Fund and want to provide language that FQMD would have a limited time to notify the City if it identifies any questionable expenditures from the account and then limit the time to notify the FQEDD to resolve any disputes.
 - viii. The City Attorney will go back and incorporate FQMD's edits related to the patrol and vehicle details they left out of the latest revision and make corrections to typos, et cetera.

No timeline was provided for delivery of said revision.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Emory questioned the "one-chance" budget approval which needs to change. Ms. Frankic noted the last CEA included budget vetting by the Finance and Development and the Security and Enforcement Committees for FQMD Board approval prior to submission to the FQEDD and this was discussed in the meeting with Mayor Cantrell. Post-meeting agreement, the City added another layer; if the FQMD Board did not approve the budget outright, then the CAO had the option of going back to FQMD Board or directly to the FQEDD which would eliminate FQMD substantive input. The main topic of the June 11th phone meeting was to secure FQMD as the administrator of the FQEDD Trust Fund and not bypass FQMD. So, the attorneys will develop a mechanism by which that can happen. The issue is the presentation of an overriding CAO budget could not address the current standard of patrolling and stakeholder concerns, and FQMD's only option would be to try and change that direction at the back end versus collaboratively developing it on the front end. The City would prefer FQMD to just "rubber stamp" the budget; the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to set the budget and that person does not know the intricacies of the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) and this eliminates a system of checks and balances.

Ms. Cavett recommended what was agreed upon in the meeting with Mayor Cantrell; the CAO would attend the Security and Enforcement Committee (SEC), and the Finance and Development Committee (FDC) meetings to collaboratively create the budget. Ms. Frankic clarified that upon presentation to the FQMD Board it will be approved for FQEDD ratification and sent back to the CAO for revision. That process ensured budget development by stakeholders and the City. Mr. Gilbert Montano is CAO and Mr. Eric Smith who was present is CAO staff for the FQEDD tax. Ms. Frankic noted pursuant to the ballot language, FQMD is the FQEDD administrator. The CAO was added to the mix at Mayor Cantrell's request to collaborate with the budget process. Ms. Cavett also reiterated the importance of the FQMD Committees vetting the budget prior to approval request because of their working knowledge of the patrols.

Mr. Caputo felt there should be a minimum standard for the budget and perhaps the CAO should create a preliminary budget.

Ms. Klein shared the Mayor and FQMD had a very productive meeting agreeing on all the points with three items to be legally vetted by the attorneys. So, the City's revamped term sheet presented by Ms. Raines was a total surprise which Ms. Frankic and Counsel Williams are navigating.

Mr. Emory asked if the CAO had presented an expense schedule yet and is there a default mechanism for fund allocation should the process fail. Ms. Cavett noted this is not a complicated budget with only about ten line items and the budget should come from SEC and EDC data-driven very specific information regarding officer count, patrols by zone and reported incidents, et cetera, to include the fixed expenses. Ms. Raines pointed out that the City changed the language on minimum patrols which could mean there would be none. Mr. Emory asked if there could be a fallback if the budget is in dispute?

Ms. Raines shared the City's most recent CEA changed the number of guaranteed officer hours. The challenge is for the CEA to include the required SPPP requirements, to quantify the number of officers per zone, and to capture what's in the patrol zones. The problem is what happens when revenue goes past the \$2,000,000.00 threshold? In 2019 tax collected was \$3,100,000.00.

Mr. DeBlieux stated the ballot language is clear; the FQMD administers this fund. Therefore, the FQMD should set the budget with CAO input. The tax initiative only passed at the ballot on the second try because of stakeholder support for FQMD being the administrator of the FQEDD Trust Fund.

Ms. Raines noted with what the City is proposing, they would create the tax, collect the tax, create the budget, and pay the invoices with no checks and balances. She agreed with Mr. DeBlieux on the clarity of the ballot language. In May FQMD authorized Chairman Pendleton request that Councilmember Palmer approach the State of Louisiana to be the collector of the FQEDD sales tax. FQMD has diligently attempted to resolve any issues with the City. Everyone's first choice is to work with the City, but at some point there must be a mechanism in place since the tax is in effect July 1, 2021. Beginning July 1, 2021, the taxes will accrue in the FQEDD Trust Fund until there is an executed CEA.

Mr. Bilbe noted Louisiana is one of only two states that does not have centralized tax collection and this will be a statewide ballot issue in October. The State will not pay the City for services if there is no CEA in place. Ms. Cooper noted this would be a topic to raise in discussions with the Mayor. Ms. Raines stated and Mr. Emory agreed, if both parties can be aligned on the patrol element of the CEA and the State collects the taxes it would be a system of checks and balances. Budget allocation past the \$2,000,000.00 threshold is also crucial since the "split" is undefined due to the 50/50 designation being removed by the City. Ms. Raines agreed with Mr. Sims that if the budget comes to FQMD first as stated in the term sheet we would have a way to move forward with the patrol plan in a way our stakeholders are comfortable with.

Mr. Bilbe noted a statewide tax collection going to vote. Tax collection will begin July 1 and will sit in escrow. We can move forward if we have a patrol plan. There has been no action on the hotel room sales tax exemption and this must be done before July 1, 2021. The previous sales tax included this exemption, and the FQEDD projections for the new Fund included the previous exemption. Mr. Emory recommended the hotels collect this tax and file for a refund when the resolution is passed by the City Council. The hotel stakeholders felt that was problematic.

Ms. Cavett motioned (M3) that "FQMD request that Councilmember Palmer work with Mr. Pendleton or Ms. Frankic to introduce a resolution at the next City Council meeting exempting hotel room sales from the FQEDD sales tax to begin July 1, 2021, as it was previously, and intended for inclusion in the new CEA", seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.

CEA revisions according to the term sheet are being done by FQMD Counsel Williams which shall be send back to FQMD for review. Ms. Frankic shall keep the Commissioners updated on the process and they may contact her at any time regarding this. Ms. Cavett noted a Commissioner Executive Session can occur at any time to discuss security matters.

Mr. Caputo noted that businesses need to be informed to collect the tax beginning July 1.

City notice was sent to businesses when they were to stop collecting the previous tax. Mr. Eric Smith stated a request shall be sent by end of the week to follow-up on this tax collection and he can be contacted via email regarding this at any time. Mr. Smith said the official notice should come from the City Council since they are the FQEDD governing body. Ms. Klein asked how will the City Council know which businesses to contact since that information is held by the City's Departments of Revenue and Safety and Permits? He stated one way or another, the information will get out. Mr. Emory noted the businesses just need to know that this tax is due on July 1 and they will work out what is due to the City, whether it is actually collected or not. Ms. Faulk said this was discussed in the Livability Committee and some small business had operational problems with their point of sale collection systems and large businesses like CVS was not collecting it previously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – Ms. Frankic

Ms. Frankic noted the Committee Chairs shall report on the work product from the past month and her report details progress that is separate and apart from those reports.

a. Administrative -

i. Disaster and Sexual Harassment Plan - FQMD's auditor, Ericksen Krentel, has received all of the requested materials for the 2020 audit and the draft report should be received later this week. Ericksen Krentel has informed her that FQMD needs to adopt a Disaster Recovery Plan and Sexual Harassment Plan his year. This will be directed to the Finance and Development Committee.

b. Public Safety

i. The Act of Donation for the SPPP automotive parts and materials which the Board of Commissioners declared surplus at the April meeting was sent to the City's Administration on April 30th. We are still waiting on their signature to transfer the surplus materials to them. Weekly requests for a timeline to execute the Act are being sent to the City with no response to date.

ii. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans for Needs Assessment of Street Homelessness in the French Quarter has been received, reviewed, and signed Chairman Pendleton. Work is expected to begin in kickoff meetings with law enforcement and next week at the Security and Enforcement Committee meeting.

d. Quality of Life

i. Sanitation – Ms. Frankic worked with the French Quarter Business Association and VCPOA to utilize FQMD's software to create both business and residential focused surveys to assess stakeholder use of, and priorities for, the new City sanitation contract. Both organizations will be reviewing survey results with their membership and then discussing the results at the next Livability Committee meeting. The goal is to get clear and concise positions to Councilmember Palmer, per her request, so she can utilize that feedback in the Request for Proposals for the new contract which begins January 2022.

- ii. Entergy Lighting Study Grant – Ms. Frankic is nearing completion of the Entergy Grant application for the French Quarter Lighting Grant Program with Livability Committee Chair Gasperecz. Early conversations with the Downtown Development District (DDD) have been encouraging in that they may be able to identify applicant matching donation funds for this program to introduce additional lighting to the 100 blocks.
- iii. GPS Light Pole Project – Ms. Frankic is working with the City’s GIS Analyst to create a geolocated map of all the existing lamp poles in the French Quarter. The summer interns will be able to use this map for the streetlight assessment. Another vendor, AT&T has submitted an application to the City. About two hundred light poles could be removed from the French Quarter to make way for these new 5G light poles through collaboration with the Vieux Carré Commission (VCC). This will allow proper dismantling, inventory, and storage of the original lamp posts.
- e. Commercial & Residential Vitality – *nothing to report*
- f. Meetings attended:
 - 5/11 NOPD 8th District MAX Meeting
 - 5/11 NONPACC 8th District Meeting
 - 5/12 Hide, Lock, Take meeting with Jason Stevens
 - 5/13 City Council: Budget-Audit-Board of Review Committee Meeting
 - 5/14 Presentation of National Police Week Proclamation to Cpt. Caprera with Chair Pendleton
 - 5/17 FQEDD Mayoral meeting with Chair Pendleton, Secretary Klein, Councilmember Palmer, and City and District staff
 - 5/17 FQ ED Working Group
 - 5/17 FQMD Security & Enforcement Committee Meeting
 - 5/18 FQBA Quality of Life Committee meeting
 - 5/18 NOPD 8th District MAX Meeting
 - 5/19 FQMD Government Affairs Committee Meeting
 - 5/21 5G working group meeting
 - 5/24 Meeting on public safety with Mr. Jaeger, Mr. Adler, Mr. Groos, Commissioner Simms, and Chair Pendleton
 - 5/24 Save Our Sacred Ground & Municipal Auditorium Webinar
 - 5/25 NOPD 8th District MAX Meeting
 - 6/4 Meeting with Ericksen Krentel regarding the 2020 Audit
 - 6/8 NOPD 8th District MAX Meeting
 - 6/9 Meeting with the Committee for a Better New Orleans incoming Executive Director
 - 6/10 VCPORA French Quarter discussion with City Leaders
 - 6/11 Meeting with Legal Counsel and City Attorney’s regarding the FQEDD CEA
 - 6/14 Call with Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans (TASGNO) regarding the kickoff meetings for Homeless Needs Assessment

VII. REPORT BY CHAIR, SECURITY and ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE – Mr. Emory

- a. Review of FQMD Attorney Williams presentation to the Committee –
 - i. Commitment to support NOPD 8th District and officer visibility recognizing the cultural and economic importance of the District.
 - ii. Address and develop a mechanism to decrease recidivism working with NOPD.
 - iii. Consent Decree – this is a contributing reason for a low officer count and smaller cadet classes. This is an obstacle for execution and there is no timeline for removal. Ms. Frankic explained some procedures shall remain in place following Consent completion.

- iv. Mr. Emory shall circle back to DA Williams with specific Committee requests. He would like to see more accountability for crime, especially repeat offenders and crimes that impact the quality of life and economy of the French Quarter.
- b. Review of French Quarter Task Force NOPD Eighth District Summary - Ms. Frankic noted Sargent Roach is still operating the FQTF SPPP as it was. The expenditures for May are for half the month. The app continues to be used and more officers have been added to the staffing pool. Some new equipment has also been added. Vehicles requiring maintenance are taken to the City Fleet Management now. Ms. Cavett asked to know if a shift was not filled and why; if a new staffing trend, then a budgetary adjustment can be made. Ms. Simms noted that other POST certified officers may be used, not just NOPD. For example, on the same Sunday of the French Quarter Fest there is a Saints game and there will not be enough NOPD officers. Also, the City dropped the minimum officer number for the SPPP in the developing CEA with the term “attempt to fill” which can be done with any POST certified officers.. **ANNEX I** (pages 8-11)

VIII. REPORT BY CHAIR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Mr. DeBlieux

- a. Review of French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF) Report – **ANNEX II** (pages 12-17)
The FQIF revenue came from New Orleans and Company and its predecessor. Collection and disbursement started in 2015 with collection ceasing in 2019. The expenses are line itemed with the largest amount going to the Louisiana State Police (LSP). All expenditures are listed in the report with most in 2020 going to the LSP, the City of New Orleans FQIF analyst and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Sobering Center. Through May 1, the 2021 expenses have been only for the FQIF analyst. The proposed changes are \$200,000.00 in vehicle expenses, \$93,500.00 for an NOPD French Quarter Overtime Coordinating Sergeant, and \$85,000.00 for the Homeless Assistance Unit. The balance in the account as of May 5, 2021 is \$1,540,45. Mr. DeBlieux verified that the NOPD 8th District vehicles referenced in the report would be limited to French Quarter use. The City’s CAO verified the exclusive boundary restrictions on the patrol vehicles. The overtime program is a temporary expansion intended to run through the end of 2021 and the purchased vehicles could be put to use for the expanded SPPP. Mr. Simms noted the black vehicles (Chevy Trax & Polaris) with blue lights are being purchased now. The FQIF is administered by the City. Funding for a booking van with POST certified officers or any other FQIF expenditure request must be sent to Mr. Smith following SEC & EDC vetting, and Board approval. Mr. Emory shall look into this.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The City is planning to hold a meeting on June 29, 2021 at the Mahalia Jackson Theater regarding the proposed City Hall move to Armstrong Park which is in the FQMD footprint.
- b. Captain Caprera’s Retirement - Ms. Cavett motioned (**M4**) for “FQMD to send a letter of thanks to Captain Caprera for his past service...”, seconded by Mr. Caputo and unanimously approved.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE: 12 July 2021 at Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Emory motioned (**M5**) to “adjourn the June 2021 Regular Meeting of the FQMD Commission at 3:32 p.m.”, seconded by Ms. Cooper and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary



**French Quarter Task
Force NOPD
Summary
Feb 28, 2021 – May
1, 2021**

NOPD FQTF Summary

FOTF is Basically Operating the Same as it has Since May 2020:

- **8 Shifts per Day; 224 Hours per Week**
 - a) **1 Officer from 3am to 7pm**
 - b) **2 Officers from 7pm to 3am**
- **Zone Coverage is Unchanged**
- **Use of the FQTF App Continues A**

Shift Time	Shift ID	Officers Per Shift							Total Hours
		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
3am – 7am	FQ-01	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	28
7am – 11am	FQ-02	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	28
11am – 3pm	FQ-03	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	28
3pm – 7pm	FQ-04	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	28
7pm – 11pm	FQ-05	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	56
11pm – 3pm	FQ-06	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	56
Shifts per Day		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Officer Hours		32	32	32	32	32	32	32	224

Few Revisions Made:

- **Officer Pool Increased from 26 to 34**
- **Vehicle Equipment Updated**
 - a) **New iPads Purchased**
 - b) **Improved Cell Service thru City Contract**
- **Vehicle Maintenance & Fuel**
 - a) **Performed by 8th District Fleet Mgmt**
 - b) **Vehicles Fueled at City Pumps on Broad St**



	Jan (FQMD)	Feb* (FQMD)	Mar** (NOPD OT)	Apr (NOPD OT)
App Calls	124	68	145	184
Dispatch Calls	19	12	42	44
Self Initiated Calls	1353	911	1825	1308
Total Calls	1496	991	2012	1536
Arrests	0	1	2	4
Apprehensions	0	0	13	13
Summons'	0	1	13	11
Traffic Citations	2	16	7	9
Business Checks	154	209	289	180
Citizen Contacts	261	261	579	360
Subjects Moved	95	64	178	159
Miles Driven	4181	2785	5213	4216

Notes:

* FQMD Program Stopped on February 21 at 3am

** March was a 5 week Month

	March	April	May	Total
Patrol Officers	\$32,218.31	\$30,427.91	\$15,845.88	\$78,492.10
Supervisor	\$4,910.64	\$3,175.50	\$2,465.50	\$10,551.64
Equipment				
iPads	\$1,192.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,192.00
Tires	\$0.00	\$95.97	\$185.00	\$280.97
Equip. Sub	\$1,192.00	\$95.97	\$185.00	\$1,472.97
Total	\$38,320.95	\$33,699.38	\$18,496.38	\$90,516.70

Notes:

*Monthly totals are not exact due to 2-week pay periods that do not directly line up with days of the month; aggregate total is correct.

French Quarter Improvement Fund CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Chief Administrative Office

1300 Perdido St – Suite 9E06 – New Orleans, LA 70112
504-658-8600

nola.gov/chief-administrative-office

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The French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF) was created by M.C.S., Ord. No. 26074 in 2014 in anticipation of a 2015 CEA between the City and New Orleans & Co. (né New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau). The CEA was revamped in 2017 to increase New Orleans & Co. payments to FQMD to pay for the SPPP. The CEA created a fund to be overseen by the City and funded by a portion of the voluntary hotel self-assessment.

The ordinance that created the fund limited it as follows:

“All revenues collected by the Department of Finance from the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau via cooperative endeavor agreement shall be used only for the repairs, improvements and services within the boundaries of the French Quarter Management District in any of the following categories: public safety and law enforcement; quality of life enforcement measures, code enforcement measures, and violation identification, ticketing and Court measures relative to ordinance compliance; sanitation; infrastructure repair or improvements; and lighting.”

In addition to the above, the City was obligated to annually transfer \$500,000 from the FQIF to the FQEDD Trust Fund to partially fund the Louisiana State Police Troop N deployment.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Collections	\$1,925,972	\$1,708,957	\$1,605,755	\$1,674,824	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget			\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,952,945	\$1,420,205	\$1,635,533
Expenditures	\$739,145	\$2,579,095	\$822,055	\$500,000	\$1,034,446	\$713,403	\$19,187
Ending Balance	\$1,747,706	\$1,109,247	\$1,987,772	\$3,307,813	\$2,273,367	\$1,559,963	

For several years the fund had a minimal amount appropriated in the annual budget, \$500,000 for Louisiana State Police, and \$600,000 for Department of Public Works. In 2019 the City created a budget, passed in May of 2019, to better ensure the fund was expended to meet the needs of the French Quarter. As part of the new budget the CAO office hired a full-time analyst to work with all departments and involved constituent groups to create subsequent years’ budgets and monitor and report on fund use.

The process of drafting a 2020 budget began in September of 2019 and through multiple rounds of negotiations with the French Quarter Management District (FQMD), a final budget was agreed upon in February of 2020, and a budget amendment ordinance was introduced to Council as M.C.S., Cal. Ord. 32,926 in March of 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, New Orleans & Co. requested that the budget ordinance be put on hold as they assessed the financial impact and whether the FQIF dollars would need to be redirected towards other needs within the Quarter.

New Orleans & Co. cancelled the governing CEA on June 29, 2020. The City responded to the cancellation notice via letter in August of 2020. Due to the CEA cancellation as well as a City-wide spending freeze resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, no further budget amendment ordinance was put forth for the 2020 operating year.

In the regular 2021 fiscal budget, Council appropriated \$1,635,533 of the FQIF to the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Health, Public Works, and CAO's office. These appropriations were the same budget items that were in the approved 2020 budget negotiated between the City and FQMD.

As of May 5, 2021 the FQIF has a fund balance of approximately \$1,540,775.

Spending

Prior Years Spending

2015		
Item	Detail	Expense
LSP	Transfer to FQEDD Fund to pay for a portion of LSP Troop N	\$500,000
Hard Rock Const.	Adjustment from prior year sidewalk repair	\$446
All Star Electric	Conduit work for sidewalk repairs	\$191,205
Total		\$691,651

2016		
Item	Detail	Expense
LSP	Transfer to FQEDD Fund to pay for a portion of LSP Troop N	\$500,000
Hard Rock Const.	Sidewalk repairs Decatur	\$1,447,428
All Star Electric	Conduit work for sidewalk repairs	\$399,988
Total		\$2,347,416

2017		
Item	Detail	Expense
LSP	Transfer to FQEDD Fund to pay for a portion of LSP Troop N	\$500,000
Hard Rock Const.	Remainder of Decatur sidewalk repairs	\$322,055
Total		\$822,055

2018		
Item	Detail	Expense
LSP	Transfer to FQEDD Fund to pay for a portion of LSP Troop N	\$500,000
Total		\$500,000

2019		
Item	Detail	Expense
LSP	Transfer to FQEDD Fund to pay for a portion of LSP Troop N	\$500,000
CAO	Salary and benefits portion dedicated FQIF Analyst	\$11,181
Sanitation	Empire – Graffiti removal crew, 2 full-time	\$97,872
Sanitation	Empire – Expanded pressure washing	\$49,339
DPW	Bourbon phase II conduits	\$375,957
Total		\$1,034,446

2020		
Item	Detail	Expense
LSP	Transfer to FQEDD Fund to pay for a portion of LSP Troop N	\$500,000
CAO	Salary and benefits portion dedicated FQIF Analyst	\$69,718
Health	Portion of salary LEAD	\$29,192
Health	Cell phone service LEAD and Sobering Center	\$1,051
Health	Contract labor LEAD and Sobering Center	\$113,439
Total		\$713,409

2021 YTD 5/1/2021		
Item	Detail	Expense
CAO	Salary and benefits portion dedicated FQIF Analyst	\$19,187
Total		\$19,187

Original 2020/2021 Budget

Department	Detail	Expense
CAO	Salary and benefits portion dedicated FQIF Analyst	\$59,481
Health	LEAD Transport Van	\$25,000
Health	LEAD Coordinator	\$77,000
Health	PIT Patrol Van	\$85,000
Health	Contract Staff LEAD/Sobering Center	\$63,000
Health	Pedestrian Safety Measures in FQ	\$25,600
DPW	New streetlights in FQ (54)	\$725,000
NOHSEP	Grounds Patrol Startup Costs	\$575,452
Total		\$1,635,533

Proposed Changes in MCS Calendar No. 32,29

NOPD French Quarter Overtime Vehicles - \$200,000

In March of 2021, in response to the uptick in crime in the French Quarter coinciding with the rapid return of tourism, the NOPD implemented an expansion of overtime availability to be used for additional pro-active vehicular and pedestrian officer patrols. This expansion amounted to an additional 576 hours of available overtime per week exclusive to the 8th district. These patrols were largely to be limited to the French Quarter, including expanded patrols along the Bourbon corridor during peak hours.

The expansion has created a shortage of vehicles to be used for these patrols. In consultation with NOHSEP, Bob Simms of the French Quarter Task Force, Captain Caprera on the 8th District, and NOPD brass, it was suggested that a portion of the FQIF appropriation that previously intended to fund startup costs for an anticipated NOHSEP Grounds Patrol program, be re-used to fund the purchase of 6 vehicles to exclusively be utilized within the boundaries of the French Quarter for the purposes of supporting the expanded overtime patrols through the end of 2021.

All parties were made aware of the restrictions that would be placed on the vehicles such as exclusive use within the boundaries of the French Quarter and that they would not be able to be transferred outside of that use. Additionally, as the overtime expansion is a temporary program intended to run through the end of 2021, it was considered that the vehicles purchased for its support could be repurposed to be utilized as part of the anticipated expanded Supplement Police Patrol Program.

We believe this request supports essential public safety and law enforcement within the boundaries of the district. An amendment to directly include these restrictions in M.C.S. Calendar No. 32,296 is agreeable to all parties.

NOPD French Quarter Overtime Coordinating Sergeant - \$93,500

The NOPD is presently using overtime dollars both from the general fund and the French Quarter Economic Development District Trust Fund to fund a sergeant to coordinate scheduling and oversight for both the overtime Supplemental Police Patrol Program and the expanded NOPD

to dedicate their time solely to ensuring the success of both programs, but also enable the 8th district to add an additional sergeant to take over the prior's regular duties ensuring a strong 8th district command. While a small number of shifts being supervised will include patrols outside of the French Quarter, the overwhelming majority of the duties of this sergeant will be limited to officers performing overtime patrols strictly within the geographic boundaries of the French Quarter.

These funds would be re-purposed from the existing \$575,452 appropriation to NOHSEP originally intended to fund the startup of an expanded Grounds Patrol program that is presently on hold.

We believe this request supports essential public safety and law enforcement within the boundaries of the district.

NOPD Homeless Assistance Unit - \$85,000

The NOPD Homeless Assistance Unit does essential work within the French Quarter in providing services and transportation for our homeless. The unit has been in need of a new van with a wheelchair lift for some time. Additionally, as we have seen an uptick in the homeless population within the French Quarter, it has been proposed to add an additional full-time civilian position enabling the Homeless Assistance Unit to operate longer hours, being further available to respond to calls for service involving the homeless and freeing up regular NOPD officers to regular duties. The van would serve double-duty being able to answer calls for service for public intoxication transport as well.

The Department of Health has requested that NOPD be the procurement agency for the van and as a result we have requested that \$60,000 of the existing \$275,600 appropriation to Health be repurposed to NOPD for this purpose. We believe the van and expanded Homeless Assistance Unit will have a substantial impact on public safety and law enforcement as well as quality of life enforcement measures within the boundaries of the French Quarter.

2020 Reporting

Prior to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, regular quarterly updates on the receipts and expenditures from the French Quarter Improvement Fund were provided to both New Orleans and Co. and FQMD as per section 6 of the K-17-789 CEA. The City has consistently made its FQIF analyst available to the FQMD at all board and committee meetings to provide any information regarding the FQIF requested.

The combination of the emergency spending freeze, general issues around the pandemic response, and subsequent cancellation of the K-17-789 CEA by New Orleans and Co. were responsible for a lack of further timely reporting on the fund through the remainder of 2020. Further, City staff has remained available to address questions, and provide regular updates and requested information to all stakeholders.