

SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Monday, 21 February 2022
2:00 pm

Bienville House, Vieux Carré Room
320 Decatur Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			VOTES	
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve mtg notes
Ann	Kesler		X	-
Frances	Hegenberger		X	-
Gail	Cavett	2:21		-
Glade	Bilby	X		-
Jane	Cooper	X		-
Matthew	Emory		X	-
Robert	Watters		X	-
Steve	Caputo	X		-

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

GUESTS		
First	Last	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Eric	Smith	City CAO Analyst
Mark	Boudreau	NOPD 8 th District / SPPP Coordinator
Bob	Simms	Commissioner
Erin	Holmes	VCPOA Executive Director
Christine	Bondio	Commissioner

2. Public Comment:

TO: Ms. Jane Cooper, Chair, FQMD Security and Enforcement Committee

I, Susan Klein, am not being paid for my comments regarding agenda items #5 and #9.

As a French Quarter resident and FQMD Commissioner I would like to urge continuance of the small black unique supplemental patrol vehicles and the interactive FQ Task Force app that is currently in use.

Some verifiable comments:

- NOPD Eighth District leadership has noted numerous times how the supplemental patrols and the FQ Task Force app makes significant contributions to the public safety of the French Quarter Management District footprint.
- Other communities have successfully initiated use of the app, based on the FQMD success.
- I live in a high-traffic area and successfully use the FQ Task Force app all the time.
- New Orleans communities with supplemental patrols who have stock NOPD vehicles resulted in their "pool" patrol cars being out of service for extended periods of time, and officer(s) being able to log in patrol time without actually being on patrol. Their homogeneous NOPD vehicular profile fostered a lack of oversight and accountability.

Our District has a number of challenges to address. The FQ Task Force app was designed over time, drilling down on our Economic Development District's unique application needs. Why should FQMD expend time, energy and money on an initiative to change a program that has a proven track record of success? The FQ Task Force app is a "sole source product" that is unique and therefore exempt from the bid requirement of the procurement process.

In my opinion, the issue of trying to replace the current FQ Task Force app will result in the same French Quarter community outcry as the recent failed attempt to make Orleans Avenue a pedestrian mall. Please let's not reinvent the wheel or try to fix something that isn't broken.

I am requesting that the Security and Enforcement Committee of FQMD does not take any action that would inhibit the continued use of the current FQ Task Force app for the supplemental patrols and cease moving forward with any unrequired procurement bidding. I also request that any vehicles utilized by the supplemental patrols continue to be small and black with the blue lights, and that no efforts are made by the FQMD, it's SEC, or the City to procure larger vehicles for this program.

Thank you,

Sue Klein
1020 Toulouse Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

3. Approval of previous meeting notes

The committee did not approve the previous meeting notes as a quorum was not in attendance.

4. Committee Chair's Comments

Committee Chair Jane Cooper reported that the 2022 work plan included identifying action items from FQMD's Needs Assessment of Street Homelessness and implementing them. She has been working with the Livability Committee Chair, Mamie Gasperecz, Executive Director, Karley Frankic, and French Market Corporation Director, Leslie Alley, to explore engagement of case managers to work in the French Quarter and partnering with other groups around the city. There is momentum in the greater community around criminal justice and the committee will be following this movement.

5. Presentation – Presentation on City Safety Coordination. To present: Eric Smith, City CAO Analyst

a. Update on Supplemental Police Patrol Program Vehicle Procurement.

Mr. Smith reported that Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department has a contract with FORD to procure vehicles that the SPPP can piggyback on. The smallest vehicle that Ford makes is the Escape. This vehicle was in the recommendations presentation that Bob Simms made to the Security & Enforcement Committee in April 2022. Mr. Smith is in the initial stage of that procurement and will report back. The four Chevy Sparks that are being donated by New Orleans & Company are outfitted and are ready to roll. Mr. Smith reported that the titles have been received by the Administration and they are waiting on the signed donation documents from New Orleans & Company. Once executed by the mayor, the cars will be put into service by the SPPP.

b. Update on the French Quarter Improvement Fund

i. Fund balance

Mr. Smith reported that the FQIF balance is \$579,000

ii. Allocations

\$275,000 was allocated in the 2021 budget with the NOPD allocations moved forward to 2022. The balance will remain in the special fund for other French Quarter needs. Mr. Simms asked about the allocation for the handicap accessible van for the Homeless Assistance Unit. Mr. Smith said that there has not been a successful bid with global supply chain issues. It is unlikely to be procured this calendar year. The van needs to be handicap accessible to meet the needs of the Unit. The City cannot procure used vehicles, except from the Federal government. He is working with a coach company for the chassis that will then need to be built out.

c. Update on status of Bourbon Street Bollards.

Mr. Smith reported that the City's engineers are putting together a scope and budget for removal of the existing bollards. There is no update on replacement except the City wants consistency across the city for crash rated bollards.

6. Presentation – Presentation of Eighth District Commander's Updates. To present Captain Hans Ganthier

Sgt. Boudreau presented for Cpt. Ganthier. He said that the first weekend of Mardi Gras went well with no major issues to report. Full street closure from Canal to Dumaine Streets and Rampart to Decatur Street will go into effect starting Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 5:00 am with limited staffing. Mr. Caputo asked how to get the word out to workers? Sgt. Boudreau recommended accessing the neighborhood by car via Esplanade, down either Dauphine or Royal Street, depending on what side of Bourbon one needed to access, as there will be no crossing of Bourbon Street. Staffing is going to be critically low due not just to manpower but also limits on the number of hours officers can work and that is where the barricades will be staffed. The Louisiana State Police will have a small contingent on Bourbon Street during the day and in the evening will add patrols to that number. There will be about 120 troopers working this holiday weekend. Ms. Frankic and Sgt. Boudreau will work on a report template for monthly reporting with the names of the call signals in the spreadsheet provided.

7. Presentation – Presentation of Eighth District Crime Statistics and the Supplemental Police Patrol Program. To Present: Sergeant Marc Boudreau

With low staffing expected during the carnival weekend, Sgt. Boudreau will be working the patrols from 3:00 pm to 3:00 am. Mr. Simms said that a notification was sent out on the Task Force app that there would be low staffing and to call 911 for emergencies. Ms. Avett asked Sgt. Boudreau if his purchase orders for the SPPP were resulting in getting the supplies he needs. Sgt. Boudreau reported that he sent two Pos but is waiting on those to be processed, started working on the first in December for computers and tech, and the second in December for car magnets. Ms. Cavett asked how the City could speed that up? Stakeholders will help where possible. She is concerned that the program is not running as efficiently as when FQMD ran it. Mr. Bilby asked Sgt. Boudreau the delay was impacting him. Sgt. Boudreau said that the delays are not preventing him from doing his job, he has a loaner tablet he is working from. Ms. Cavett asked why Mr. Smith couldn't use his credit card for purchases below \$1,000. Mr. Smith said that only emergency purchases could be paid for that way, All other purchases must go through the City's procurement process.

8. Presentation – Presentation on the French Quarter Economic Development District Agreement Monitors meeting. To present: Jane Cooper

Ms. Cooper said that this is a new permanent agenda item that will report out on the action items resulting in the FQEDD Agreement Monitor meetings that take place immediately prior to the Security & Enforcement Committee meetings. Ms. Cooper asked Sgt. Boudreau about Esplanade neutral ground parking. Sgt. Boudreau said that it cannot be done through the SPPP but though the 8th District will have training for the Quality-of-Life Officers and asked parking enforcement to focus on Esplanade through the weekend.

Staffing in Parking Enforcement is the problem, as with all departments right now. The SPPP has been doing hazardous towing, particularly in the 500 block of Barracks St. Sgt. Boudreau is exploring foot patrols to help fill the shifts until enough vehicles are available to fill all of the shifts required in the CEA. Ms. Cavett wants to reiterate anything not in a small black vehicle equipped with blue flashing lights is outside the terms and this cannot be a permanent solution. The committee discussed that this is a stop gap effort to get more officers on the street while the City tried to procure the necessary vehicles. Mr. Simms stated that he is opposed to foot patrols.

2022/02/21 FQEDD Agreement Monitor Meeting Action Items

1. Administration: Finance Department will have a more detailed report on collections next month.
2. SPPP Supervisor: Report both the percentage of shifts obligated under the CEA as well as the number of shifts scheduled
3. SPPP Supervisor: Investigate foot patrols as an option and what the impact on the KPIs would be if this option was engaged until vehicles were procured
4. Administration: Report on the status of the arrangement between NOPD headquarters and the Sheriff's office
5. SPPP Supervisor: Update training manual for street closures
6. SPPP Supervisor: Get training on parking tickets
7. Administration: Report quickly on ability for donation for parking enforcement to be actionable during remainder of Carnival.
8. FQMD: At the Administration's request FQMD Board or Security & Enforcement Committee have an approved motion making recommendations to the City for the app capabilities
9. FQMD: Provide a performance matrix for app maintenance
10. Administration: Put together bid for Polarises
11. Administration: Put together procurement of SPPP patrol vehicles via Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department Ford contract with FQIF allocation
12. Administration: Put together bid for SPPP patrol vehicles with FQEDD budgeted funds.
13. Administration: Complete donation of vehicles from New Orleans & Company
14. Administration: Provide real-time access to detailed invoices and remittances to FQMD
15. Administration: Provide Dept. of Finance report on current month and delinquent remittance per month

9. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of the Supplemental Police Patrol Program App Request for Proposals

Ms. Cooper presented the list of app capabilities, performance and service that she, Vice-chair Caputo, and Committee member Cavett worked on at the request of the City. She noted that whether it is a single source bid will be the decision of the City's procurement department, not this committee. Ms. Cavett said that she wants it in writing what exactly the City is asking the committee to do. She said there is no rush to make this bid happen. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Simms, as a representative of SDT Productions, had told him that they needed a contract and were not willing to continue under the existing month to month terms. Mr. Smith will send an email to SDT Productions to confirm in writing that they do not in fact need a long-term licensing agreement and no amendments to the existing agreement will be made.

10. Presentation – Presentation on the status of the expansion of the Upper Quarter Patrol, formerly known as the Royal Street Patrol. To present: Jane Cooper

Ms. Cooper reported that the name change to the Royal Street Patrol to the Upper Quarter Patrol came at the request of the contractor, Public Safety Services to alleviate confusion around the geographical location of the patrols. Due to manpower issues, they will begin patrolling after Mardi Gras. Insurance was a stumbling block but has now been resolved.

11. New Business– To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Security and Enforcement Committee

Mr. Simms said that Sue Klein wants to see expansion of crime cameras in the French Quarter, specifically at Toulouse and N. Rampart by her house. Mr. Simms said that there should be cameras at all entry and exit points of the neighborhood. Ms. Cooper noted that this could fall into the 2022 Work Plan under Developing a list of actionable items from FQMD's French Quarter Physical Security Assessment. She said that two other goals from the Work Plan include gun free zones and the Hide, Lock, Take initiatives.

12. Next meeting date: 21 March 2022

The next scheduled meeting of the committee is Monday, March 21st at 2:00pm.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Caputo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cavett seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm