

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Monday, 5 June 2023, 3:00 pm

*Covenant House, Board Room,
 611 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112*

1. Call to Order, Reading of the Agenda, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				MOTIONS
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes
Madison	Charleston	x		Yes
Rene	Fransen	x		Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	x		Yes
Erin	Holmes		x	-
Christian	Pendleton	x		Yes
Frank	Perez	x		Yes
Graham	Williams	x		Yes
Antonio	Carbone		x	-

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Jane	Cooper	FQMD Commissioner/SEC Chair
Nathaniel	Fields	Director Homeless Services & Strategy
Lanicka	Hunter	Homeless Services & Strategy
Glade	Bilby	FQMD Commissioner
Alex	Dunkenberger	CNO CAO
Rheneisha	Robertson	Executive Director Covenant House
Ethan	Ellestad	Executive Director MaCCNO
Jessica	Dietz	SEC Committee
Gretchen	Byers	VCPOA

2. Public Comment

No written public comment was received at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Approval of previous meeting notes

Mr. Pendleton made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes, Mr. Fransen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

4. Committee Chair Comments

Mamie Gasperecz introduced Nathaniel Fields, Lanicka Hunter, and Rheneisha Robertson to the Committee and invited them to discuss their efforts around homeless services in the French Quarter and the City Strategic Plan. Mr. Fields stated that the City Strategic plan is a 10-year plan funded by the City which aims to deregulate homeless encampments and close the gaps in the system so that unhoused individuals can access the resources and outreach they need. Staffing of qualified case managers has been a challenge. Mr. Fields added that addiction and mental health in the unhoused community are important factors that need to be taken into consideration with homeless services and outreach programs. On June 1st the mental health crisis unit was activated. Tulane and LSU are interested in working with Homeless Services & Strategy to bring street meds and medical services to the unhoused population suffering with mental health issues. Outreach cards are being created that will list available assistance and resources in the area. A location for a public restroom facility for unhoused individuals is also in the works.

Christian Pendleton brought up the challenges and risks for business owners with hiring individuals transitioning from prison into the workforce. Mr. Fields spoke of the "Turnaround Tuesday" model which offers soft training and ongoing support to individuals during their transition back into the workforce.

Ms. Robertson pointed out the importance of helping the rising number of unhoused youths in the city and spoke of the Maternal Pathways Program - a new program dedicated to first-time pregnant individuals who are also experiencing homelessness. Services offered include birth support services, education, employment opportunities, and individual care plans and support is available 24/7.

Karley Frankic asked Mr. Fields what the timeline for the strategic plan is in regard to budget season. Mr. Fields stated that the plan starts at the beginning of the third quarter. Ms. Frankic stated that the FQEDD could potentially have extra funding for public safety programs and encouraged the Committee to think about where this funding could be best allocated.

5. Sanitation Key Performance Indices

See attached.

KBS is reporting that they are meeting 99-100% of their pressure washing and street flushing cleanings. Ms. Frankic spoke with Dept. of Sanitation Director, Matt Torri, about the committee's recommendations on the density of litter can placements for the 100 new receptacles to be deployed in the French Quarter. KBS has one more extension term and the City plans to extend. Some of the challenges that KBS is noting can be revolved with enforcement. The sanitation ranger that was deputized for the French Quarter is not armed or trained in de-escalation and can be faced with verbal or physical threats when writing citations. Therefore NOPD is still needed to be present for issuing citations. Mr. Pendleton asked if there is a way that the quality of work performed by KBS can be included in the KPI report. Ms. Frankic responded that they are trying to get KBS and Block by Block to work together on proper pressure washing training.

6. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Street Vending Enforcement

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Mr. Pendleton stated that there is a lack of enforcement to handle the scope of the illegal vending issue. Jane Cooper added that there were sweeps in early May that included illegal vending, but that NOPD doesn't have the manpower to address it on a regular basis. Ms. Frankic reported that the sweep on May 12th led to 29 illegal vendors being written citations. Confiscation has been one of the challenges, but Captain LeJon Roberts is currently working on putting methodologies in place for approaching these confiscation issues. Alex Dunkengberger will confirm if illegal vending is something that the Department of Revenue can get involved with.

7. Discussion - Discussion by Committee of Royal Street Pedestrian Mall including parking enforcement and barricade mobilization

Mr. Pendleton has had no updates since the last Committee meeting on this topic. He stated that a long term, realistic, and sustainable plan needs to be created for the Royal Street Pedestrian Mall and noted that staffing for NOPD and the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) is declining. Ms. Frankic stated that the ARPA funds proposed to go towards paying for three years of French Quarter Grounds Patrol officers to include the Royal Street Pedestrian Mall barricade mobilization passed through the Budget Committee but may have gotten tied up when it went to the full Council. Mr. Dunkenberger will confirm if the ARPA funds for Grounds Patrol have been pushed through.

Parking enforcement has continued to be a challenge in the Royal Street Pedestrian Mall. Ms. Frankic reported that during last month's Security and Enforcement Committee meeting Parking Enforcement staff stated that parking in the pedestrian mall is an immediate towable offense, but they are understaffed with a loss of half their employees since COVID. The FQEDD has money allocated for special event towing, but staffing is a challenge for this as well. Jessica Dietz stated that secondary towing companies can tow if NOPD towing is unavailable, but that a ticket must already be on the vehicle for the towing to take place.

Mr. Dunkenberger will confirm if the 90-day Royal Street Mall pilot meeting will be held in mid-July.

8. New business – To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Livability Committee

Ms. Cooper reported that Covenant House has begun to work with the Downtown Development District (DDD) on training for signs of human trafficking and expanding this education further with the Upper Quarter Patrol (UQP) and the SPPP so that law enforcement can be more prepared on how to identify and address these issues.

Mr. Pendleton asked to add an update on the Sobering Center on the next meeting's agenda. Mr. Dunkenberger will report back with statistics from the center. Ms. Dietz stated that the Sobering Center van makes a pass every morning up Canal Street. The center and the van are accessible 24/7 and the center is located at Claiborne Avenue and St. Ann Street.

Graham Williams wanted to thank Committee member Erin Holmes for all her work with gathering feedback in the French Quarter revolving around the recent legislation involving the Vieux Carre Commission.

Glade Bilby reported on House Bill 131 which would allow permitless carry of firearms legal in Louisiana. Mr. Bilby suggested making an amendment to HB131 to create a gun-free zone for the French Quarter. Mr. Bilby has reached out to Superintendent Woodfork, Captain LeJon Roberts, Sen. Royce Duplessis, Rep. Alonzo Knox, and Sen. Joseph Bouie about this amendment and has yet to hear back from Sen. Bouie on the matter.

9. Next meeting date –

The July meeting will be canceled due to Independence Day celebrations and the next scheduled meeting date is August 7th, 2023, at 3:00.

10. Adjournment

French Quarter

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Mr. Pendleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Charleston seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of May

99%

Of 3x per week and daily pressure washing completed; incompletions due to construction, crime, movie filming, and other unforeseen detours



Graffiti removed from 1687 spaces of public property in May

99%

Street Flushing Completed



100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed

0

Instances of speeding 5+ miles over the speed limit over 120 routes in

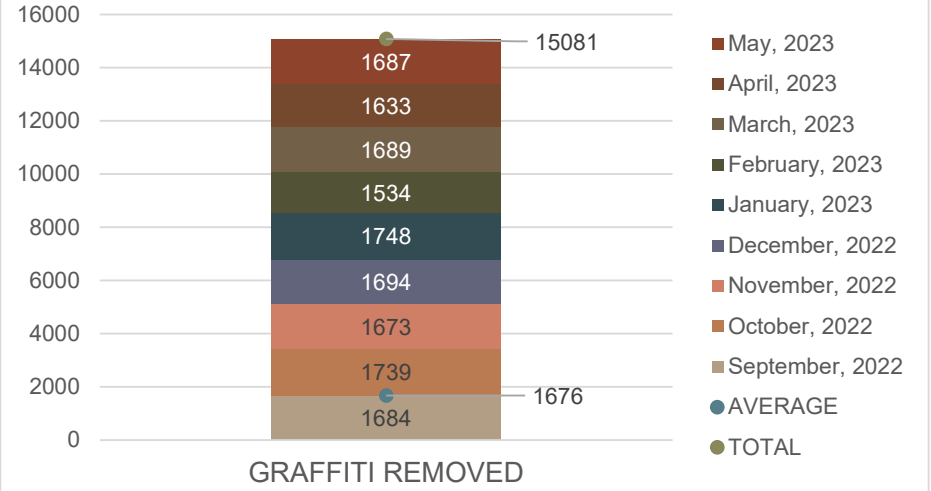
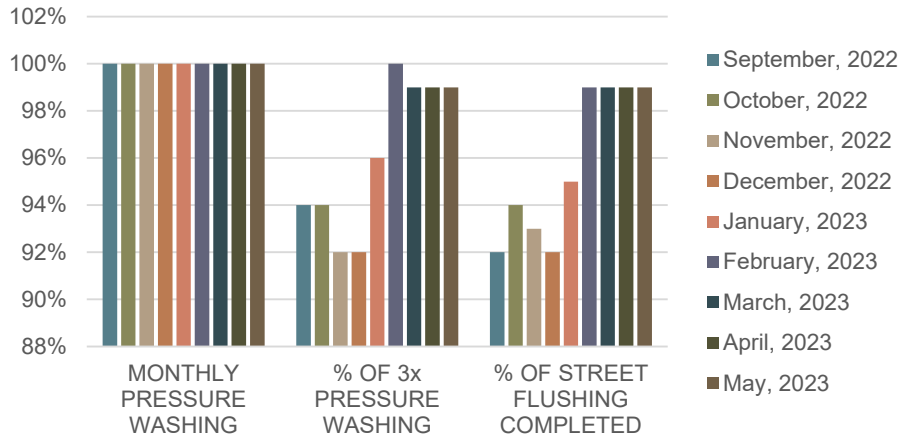
May



758

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew

PRESSURE WASHING & FLUSHING



INSTANCES OF SPEEDING

