

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Monday, 6 November 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 3:03 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				MOTIONS			
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes	Move Agenda Item 7 to Item 5	Utilize State appropriation towards N. Rampart safety measures and glass recycling	Allocate \$56,000 a year from the FQEDD fund to Covenant House's Outreach Program
Madison	Charleston		x	-	-	-	-
Rene	Fransen	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Erin	Holmes	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Graham	Williams		x	-	-	-	-
Antonio	Carbone	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Eric	Smith	CAO's Office
Nathaniel	Fields	Director of Homeless Services & Strategy
Angela	Owczarek	TASGNO
Jane	Cooper	FQMD Commissioner
Glade	Bilby	FQMD Commissioner
Jessica	Dietz	SEC Committee Member
Gretchen	Byers	VCPORA
David	Jones	FOX8
Andrew	Monteverde	New Orleans Fire Fighters Association
Bob	Simms	FQMD Commissioner
Melissa	Tyler	Covenant House

2. Public Comment

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Andrew Monteverde, a member of the New Orleans Fire Fighters Union Association, requested to speak. He voiced his concern regarding the lack of Parking Enforcement in the French Quarter, adding that the City has been unresponsive to his multiple attempts to bring awareness and improvement to this problem. Mr. Monteverde stated that cars are regularly illegally parked on street corners, making it impossible for Emergency Responder Vehicles to make their way through the French Quarter, noting that fire hydrants are also being blocked. He spoke of the multiple threats that the firefighters received while informing individuals that they were illegally blocking fire engines, hydrants, or street corners. Mr. Monteverde stressed his concern over the lack of towing in the neighborhood, pointing out that this is a major public safety issue which prevents firefighters from being able to do their jobs. He stated that one NOPD officer attempted to help with towing illegally parked cars but was informed to stop. Mr. Monteverde stated that his goal is to get help from as many agencies as possible to bring awareness to this problem and thanked the Committee for their time.

3. Motion - Approval of previous meeting notes

Christian Pendleton motioned to approve the previous meeting notes. Vice-Chair Erin Holmes seconded the motion, and it was approved.

4. Committee Chair Comments

Chair Mamie Gasperecz thanked everyone for their attendance and asked that each guest speaker keep their presentations to 10 minutes and to allow for a few minutes afterwards for questions from the Committee members.

Ms. Gasperecz motioned to move agenda item number seven up to agenda item number five. Mr. Pendleton seconded the motion, and it was approved.

5. Presentation – Presentation of North Rampart Infrastructure and Safety Updates. To present: Erin Holmes and Antonio Carbone

Antonio Carbone reported that since last month's Livability Committee meeting, the results of the VCPORA North Rampart Street safety and infrastructure survey have been presented to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Carbone stated that he and Ms. Holmes have been working with the City and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to define a budget and establish the scope of pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements on North Rampart Street. He noted that the main areas of focus include improved signage for high visibility pedestrian crosswalks, curb extensions from Toulouse Street to St. Philip Street to shorten the distance pedestrians are out in the road, and the return of a stoplight on St. Ann Street to reduce the amount of distance that cars have to accelerate. Mr. Carbone stated that he and Ms. Holmes have scheduled a meeting this Thursday with Karley Frankic, Jen Ruley and Matt Rufo to discuss long-term planning and cost estimations for each of these projects. He stated that they have prioritized the street corners based on type, noting that the highest priority for curb extensions are the streets that turn onto North Rampart Street that are exiting the French Quarter. Mr. Carbone added that the second priority are the inbound street corners where traffic is turning off of North Rampart Street, and lastly, the third priority are the pedestrian-only crosswalks. He stated that solutions to improve drainage on North Rampart Street will also be further discussed. Mr. Carbone pointed out that there are a number of options to consider regarding sizes for stoplights and signage. He stated that these safety and infrastructure improvements have been viewed favorably by the public and noted that these enhancements can be expanded upon in the future. Mr. Pendleton asked Mr. Carbone if he had an estimate of the overall cost for these improvements. Mr. Carbone replied that he will have a more solid answer after the meeting with the City this Thursday but stated that the largest individual line item cost for this project is the stoplight for St. Ann Street, which could potentially cost \$250,000. He added that the preliminary estimates for each street corner curb extension land around \$20,000 and signage can run between \$400-\$3,000 depending on the size. Mr. Carbone added that costs for these improvements should not be fully covered by the Louisiana State 2023-2024 appropriation but matched with the City. Ms. Holmes pointed out that the DPW has begun Project 735, stating that flex posts and restriping of crosswalks have already begun. She added that the overall goal is to think of permanent implementations and noted that the curb extensions will be more effective and long-term than the temporary flex posts. Ms. Gasperecz asked if any Committee

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member knew how to quantify the effectiveness of the similar safety measures implemented on Magazine Street in the past. Mr. Carbone will ask this question at Thursday's meeting with Ms. Holmes, Ms. Frankic, and the City.

6. Presentation – Presentation by City of New Orleans Director of Homeless Services and Strategies of French Quarter Economic Development District Rapid Rehousing Program. To Present: Nathaniel Fields

See attached documents. Nathaniel Fields, Director of Homeless Services and Strategy, reviewed the documents with the Committee and discussed the timeline for the Rapid Rehousing Program. Mr. Fields said one of the main priorities in this program is to get as many people housed and connected to services as possible. He noted that the homeless encampment decommissioning phase has already begun. Mr. Fields stated that funding from private partnerships, Unity, and the City have been put towards this plan, but more funding is still required to reach the goal of housing 1,500 individuals by the end of 2025, adding that he is requesting funds from the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) 2024 budget to be allocated towards this program. Mr. Fields pointed out that with the current housing process for the unhoused, the individual must be chronically homeless for one year and then proceed with the lengthy processes of filling out the proper paperwork and getting connected to a housing voucher. He informed the Committee that the Rapid Rehousing Plan will help to avoid unnecessary steps and transitions and move the unhoused individuals into affordable housing at a faster rate, while providing long-term bridge case management to help integrate these individuals back into living on their own and to provide sustainability. Mr. Fields stated that landlord incentives and move-in kits, which will include items such as furniture, will be provided to each individual in the Rapid Rehousing Program and noted that they have been successful with finding landlords who are interested in being a part of this process, including short-term rental owners. He stated that rental subsidies for each individual's housing will also be provided for up to a year within the Rapid Rehousing Program. Mr. Fields noted that both Unity and the Traveler's Aid Society of Greater New Orleans (TASGNO) staff have been in the French Quarter every day making lists of unhoused individuals, stating that the goal for the French Quarter is to start with housing 20 individuals in a pilot program, and hopefully add another 20 after key performance indices for success have been measured. He stated that with Q4 just beginning in October, the testing and demonstrating results phase for decommissioning encampments has been launched. Mr. Fields will come back to present numbers and successes of this phase to the Committee.

Mr. Fields asked if the Committee had questions. Ms. Gasperecz asked Mr. Fields what neighborhoods the unhoused will be moved into. Angela Owczarek replied everywhere in the City, adding that it will be case by case and based off of each individuals' preferences. Ms. Owczarek noted that factors like if an individual requires an ADA accessible apartment, or if they need to be connected to a certain line of public transportation for convenience, are all being taken into consideration for each individual. Ms. Gasperecz asked what the timing is for this process. Mr. Fields answered that the timing is now, adding that over the summer, 31 unhoused individuals died during the excessive heat, pointing out that this could have been avoided if these individuals had housing. He noted that the APRA and Unity funds are time limited resources, stressing that the sooner the program begins, the better.

Ms. Owczarek noted that a study was conducted by TASGNO in 2021 about the realities that the unhoused face in New Orleans if Committee members want further information. She stated that there are currently no housing voucher resources or housing resources available, pointing out that within the first nine months of this year the two TASGNO case managers housed 16 individuals, but over a dozen individuals are currently stuck waiting for available housing vouchers. She added that the individuals who are waiting for vouchers have successfully completed all of the proper steps and paperwork, but there are no vouchers available, noting that one unhoused woman died this summer while waiting for her voucher. Mr. Pendleton voiced his concern over individuals turning down services, pointing out that they would need to voluntarily choose to be a part of this program. He noted that the FQMD has already put funding towards homeless services like TASGNO and the Low Barrier Shelter and stated that the requested amount of funding for the Rapid Rehousing Program pilot is a substantial amount. Mr. Pendleton stated that with the FQEDD sales tax, this funding needs to be spent in the French Quarter for the French Quarter and asked Mr. Fields how this program would identify if the 20 unhoused individuals are based in the French Quarter and not from other neighborhoods and are then being

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housed in the French Quarter lawfully. Eric Smith pointed out that by housing the individuals from the French Quarter into other neighborhoods, it is still benefitting the French Quarter. Mr. Smith will get a legal opinion regarding if these individuals need to be housed specifically in the French Quarter or if they can be housed in other areas of the City. Ms. Holmes asked Mr. Fields if those eligible for the Rapid Rehousing Program have to be termed chronically homeless for 12 months. Mr. Fields answered no and stated that TASGNO will be determining who the individuals best for the program are. Ms. Holmes asked how much in ARPA funds has the City committed to this effort. Mr. Fields replied that the City has funded \$2.5M specifically for the Rapid Rehousing Program. Ms. Holmes asked what other sources of funding have been considered. Mr. Fields answered that he has been reaching out to private philanthropists, churches, and community partners to start campaigning for fundraising.

Mr. Carbone asked Mr. Fields if the individuals in the Rapid Rehousing Program can extend the 12 month rental subsidies. Mr. Fields replied that \$15M in funding will be allocated to permanent supportive housing, whereas the Rapid Rehousing funding is only for the first 12 months. Ms. Holmes asked if these individuals start paying rent after the first 12 months, and voiced her concern over the \$1,500 rent, pointing out that it could be hard for these individuals to pay this amount monthly. Mr. Fields stated that this will be determined on a case by case basis and noted that most of the individuals in the Rapid Rehousing Program will be eligible for the permanent supportive housing vouchers. Ms. Owczarek added that they do not intend to put individuals into housing at a rate beyond what their household size would equal to in the fair market model. Mr. Carbone stated that he is a member of an affordable housing non-profit called People's Housing Plus, and suggested Mr. Fields connect with this group to discuss this program and long-term solutions for housing options. Ms. Owczarek pointed out that the Rapid Rehousing Program is intended to help fill in the gaps that are slowing down the work that TASGNO is trying to accomplish with providing housing to the homeless and recommended that if the Committee has further questions regarding the successes and progress made by TASGNO and the Low Barrier Shelter, to look at the monthly reports attached in Committee packets, noting that statistics are available showing the individuals connected to treatment and housing.

7. Presentation – Presentation by Covenant House of French Quarter Economic Development District Covenant House Outreach Request. To Present: Melissa Tyler

See attached document. Melissa Tyler, the Director of Development and Communications at Covenant House, introduced herself to the Committee and thanked them for their time. She provided background information regarding Covenant House to the Committee, stating that Covenant House serves unhoused youths ages 16-22, including pregnant and parenting youths and their children, and is the only space for unhoused youths in the City. She reported that last year Covenant House served 697 individuals, with 228 of these individuals being reached by the Covenant House outreach team and added that 75 individuals were able to be safely discharged to family. Ms. Tyler added that Covenant House is currently partnering with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation on a pilot project which provides housing in a seven unit apartment complex for first-time expectant mothers during their first year of pregnancy. She noted that the unhoused adult population differs greatly from the unhoused youths, stating that the young individuals that Covenant House works with need to build a strong level of trust before willingly coming to Covenant House for services and support. Ms. Tyler stated that the outreach proposal she is presenting today is for \$55,748.60 in funding for Covenant House that would be allocated to transportation, family unification, welfare check-ins, education, outreach, and trafficking preventing.

Ms. Gasperecz asked Ms. Tyler if she could describe to the Committee how Covenant House's funding source differs from the shelters and programs supported by Unity. Ms. Tyler answered that Covenant House is a part of the Continuum of Care, and does receive funds through Unity, but noted that the street outreach is mainly funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. She added that this funding ends in 2024. Ms. Gasperecz asked what Covenant House's footprint looks like. Ms. Tyler responded that Covenant House New Orleans is a part of the Covenant House Federation, with other locations throughout Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama. Ms. Holmes asked if the total figure in this request is inclusive of outreach costs for one year. Ms. Tyler answered that yes, this funding would cover an entire year of outreach costs. Ms. Cooper asked if this funding request is to add capacity to the resources available through

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Covenant House. Ms. Tyler replied yes, stating that if they receive more funding, more time and resources can be invested in each individual. The Committee thanked Ms. Tyler and Covenant House for the work that they are doing.

8. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Louisiana State 2023-2024 Appropriation

See attached documents. The Committee discussed the State Appropriation parking lot list attached in the meeting packet. Mr. Pendleton stated that this funding should be put towards tangible improvements, and stressed the importance of being mindful of how this funding is spent. Ms. Holmes added that this appropriation fund needs to be spent in full by June 2024. Mr. Carbone asked if there were any restrictions on how this funding is spent. Mr. Pendleton answered that his impression is that this funding should be allocated towards substantial improvements that fulfill the FQMD's overall mission that was created when the FQMD was originally established. Ms. Holmes suggested that this funding be used for one-time costs, not reoccurring costs. She reminded everyone that the FQEDD funding is a separate conversation, but the Livability Committee needs to make a recommendation regarding the FQEDD 2024 budget to the Board of Commissioners. The Committee continued to discuss the list of budget items proposed for each source of funding. Ms. Cooper reminded the Committee of the Glass Half Full recycling program that was previously mentioned and noted that this is also a budget item to consider for the State appropriation funds. Ms. Cooper will reach out to Glass Half Full regarding more information on glass recycling stations in the French Quarter. Mr. Pendleton said that streetlighting should also be considered, as this is a public safety issue and falls into the Livability Committees priorities. Mr. Fransen agreed with Mr. Pendleton and stated that this should be an urgent priority. Ms. Holmes asked Ms. Cooper if she had the proposed budget for the Security and Enforcement Committee's expansion of the Upper Quarter Patrol. Ms. Cooper will provide this information to the Committee. Ms. Holmes summarized that the items to consider for the State appropriation include safety measures for North Rampart Street, the expansion of the Upper Quarter Patrol, and glass recycling. Mr. Pendleton noted that the Covenant House outreach request would be a reoccurring expense, so this would be better if proposed for the FQEDD budget. Ms. Gasperecz asked the Committee if there were one or two projects that they felt strongly about in regard to the State appropriation.

Ms. Holmes made a motion that the French Quarter Management District Livability Committee recommend utilizing the 2023-2024 Louisiana State appropriation towards glass recycling and North Rampart Street safety measures, but also prioritize streetlights, the Upper Quarter Patrol, and towing enforcement improvements within the State allocation. Mr. Pendleton seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Mr. Pendleton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that \$56,000 a year be spent out of the French Quarter Economic Development District funds to support the outreach program at Covenant House. Mr. Fransen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

9. Presentation – Presentation of Keep the Quarter Clean Night Out Against Crime Report. To Present: Shelby Ursu

See attached report. Shelby Ursu reported that the Keep the Quarter Clean emails have noticeably increased since the Night Out Against Crime event and told the Committee members to email her if they have any further questions.

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

No new business was discussed.

11. Next meeting date

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Monday, December 4th, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Pendleton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Carbone seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Budget Request Narrative – French Quarter Management District

The Unity-led Unsheltered Plan and nearly \$15M award from HUD aim to house 420 persons experiencing homelessness and living unsheltered. This plan leverages federal resources, local public and private dollars, existing landlord engagement services, and the UNITY warehouse of donated furnishings and household items to support unhoused persons' transition to permanent housing. The infusion of federal dollars will be matched by \$500,000 in cash commitments from the private sector to support rapid rehousing rental subsidies paired with federally funded services. Additional commitments for leveraged services are also a central part of the unsheltered plan. These services remain critical and will be fully leveraged as the city and UNITY work to further amplify this initiative. The opportunity to leverage these services is time-critical and further investments allow us to maximize the number of persons moved into permanent housing.

With the addition of the City's new Director of Homeless Services and Strategy Nate Fields, Clutch Consulting, and targeted political will and resources, we are now looking to expand the unsheltered initiative to include targeted encampment decommissioning City-wide, particularly in the inner core. This will expand the goal of rehousing 420 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to 750 individuals and aims to reach low or no unsheltered homelessness within the next 18 months.

With this expansion comes the need for additional cash resources to support enhanced landlord engagement and the holding of units in the market so we can move entire encampments into housing all at once, as well as move-in kits to ensure individuals are able to remain in housing. Further, we are working in partnership with municipal services to maintain the closure of an encampment once everyone is housed so that we can take our services to the next encampment and effectively manage our inner core.

We believe the French Quarter Management District has a vested interest in achieving low or no unsheltered homelessness and implementing more effective long-term management practices within the French Quarter. The existing partnership with the City, the French Market Corporation, and Travelers Aid of Greater New Orleans, funded partially by the French Quarter Economic Development District sales tax, has seen objective, on-the-ground progress in reducing long-term homelessness. The confluence of new grant funding, public-private partnerships, and voucher funding present a unique and time-sensitive opportunity for an expanded unsheltered initiative specific to the French Quarter. There is an immediate opportunity to best leverage these resources by adding 20 rehousing packages as a start for individuals experiencing homelessness in the French Quarter, allowing all parties to take advantage of this combination of efforts.

Travelers Aid Partnership

As of the end of September, Travelers Aid's two FQ outreach workers had, in response to the needs of 220 unique unhoused individuals in the French Quarter, moved 16 people into permanent housing, provided 101 connections to some form of treatment, provided 122 enrollments in public benefits, and replaced or obtained 98 vital documents. Because even this large volume of work represents only a portion of what could be done in the French Quarter in terms of outreach services for unhoused individuals, Travelers Aid has recommended the addition of a third street outreach case manager to its team in the 2024 budget year and asked for the provision of a vehicle to make the client transportation portion of this work more feasible.

Notably, however, almost all this work done by street outreach case managers is done for clients while they are still on the streets and is limited in its pace by systemic factors such as voucher availability and affordable housing availability.

As Travelers Aid has noted in multiple months' previous reports to the FQEDD, even once clients complete all steps related to the housing application process, they may then wait weeks and months to be approved for a housing subsidy voucher and then find an affordable apartment they can move into, especially given recent slow-downs and intermittent stoppages in state voucher availability.

Then, after move-in, unhoused individuals continue to require significant support to adjust to housing - if they have been on the streets for years, they are likely unfamiliar with tasks like paying their rental portion, contacting a landlord to make a repair, or generally adjusting to being a neighbor and building a life with goals beyond surviving another night on the streets. While most individuals matched to housing voucher subsidies are also paired with housing case management, not all individuals do get this case management assistance in the same quality or quantity. This past year, this has resulted in our street outreach case managers frequently being called upon to assist their former clients who have been in housing for weeks or months already but who don't know or trust anyone else to take them to the doctor, replace their SNAP benefits card, or help them to navigate a difficult situation with a neighbor.

Thus, this program seeks to address two of these issues that simply cannot functionally be solved by outreach case managers - (1) the wait to receive a housing subsidy and find an affordable apartment at the voucher price in the first place and (2) the sudden drop off some clients face when transitioning from receiving intensive outreach case management from Travelers Aid to living in housing and receiving varied levels of supportive case management, and thus continuing to rely on outreach case managers for long-term support instead.

This program will address voucher wait times by simply providing rental subsidies directly to 20 individuals in the French Quarter, eliminating the need for these individuals to complete such intensive applications processes and then wait in a region-wide queue for subsidy assignment. This rapid rehousing model is used nationwide and is currently being used successfully to assist other areas with dense homelessness in New Orleans. This rapid access to rental assistance can also be life-preserving for some of the sickest members of our unhoused population: notably, multiple individuals the Travelers Aid outreach team has assisted into housing thus far this year from the French Quarter have had grave medical conditions that have worsened deeply in their time waiting for housing, including in one instance in which one frail, older woman passed away after working closely with outreach to complete all steps of the housing application paperwork after waiting for over a month for voucher assignment.

This program will also shorten the time individuals spend looking for housing once a housing voucher subsidy has been assigned to them. By relying on the landlord incentives budgeted in the program, the housing case manager and leasing services specialist provided for in the budget will be able to more rapidly place these 20 individuals into housing because they will be able to offer landlords an average of \$900 per client to get them into more desirable apartments. Then, once the leasing services specialist has executed a lease for the client, the housing case manager will continue to visit each client multiple times per month, ensuring they have consistent, high quality case management until they can be bridged to a longer-term housing and case management program. Similarly, individuals will be supported to stay in their homes because the program has afforded for move-in kits containing furniture and essential items like cleaning supplies, sheets, hygiene supplies, cookware, and more - all the items that make an apartment or house a home.

In sum, this program seeks to augment the outreach case management services that Travelers Aid is already providing by creating a more rapid, life-saving pathway for up to 20 individuals to receive rental subsidies, move into high-quality, safe housing as enabled by landlord incentives administered by a leasing specialist, and then be supported to remain in stable housing by a housing case manager (who will assist in addressing their case management needs inclusive of connections to treatment, benefits, vital documents, and more) for up to 12 months until a permanent subsidy and case management support program are available.

Budget Request

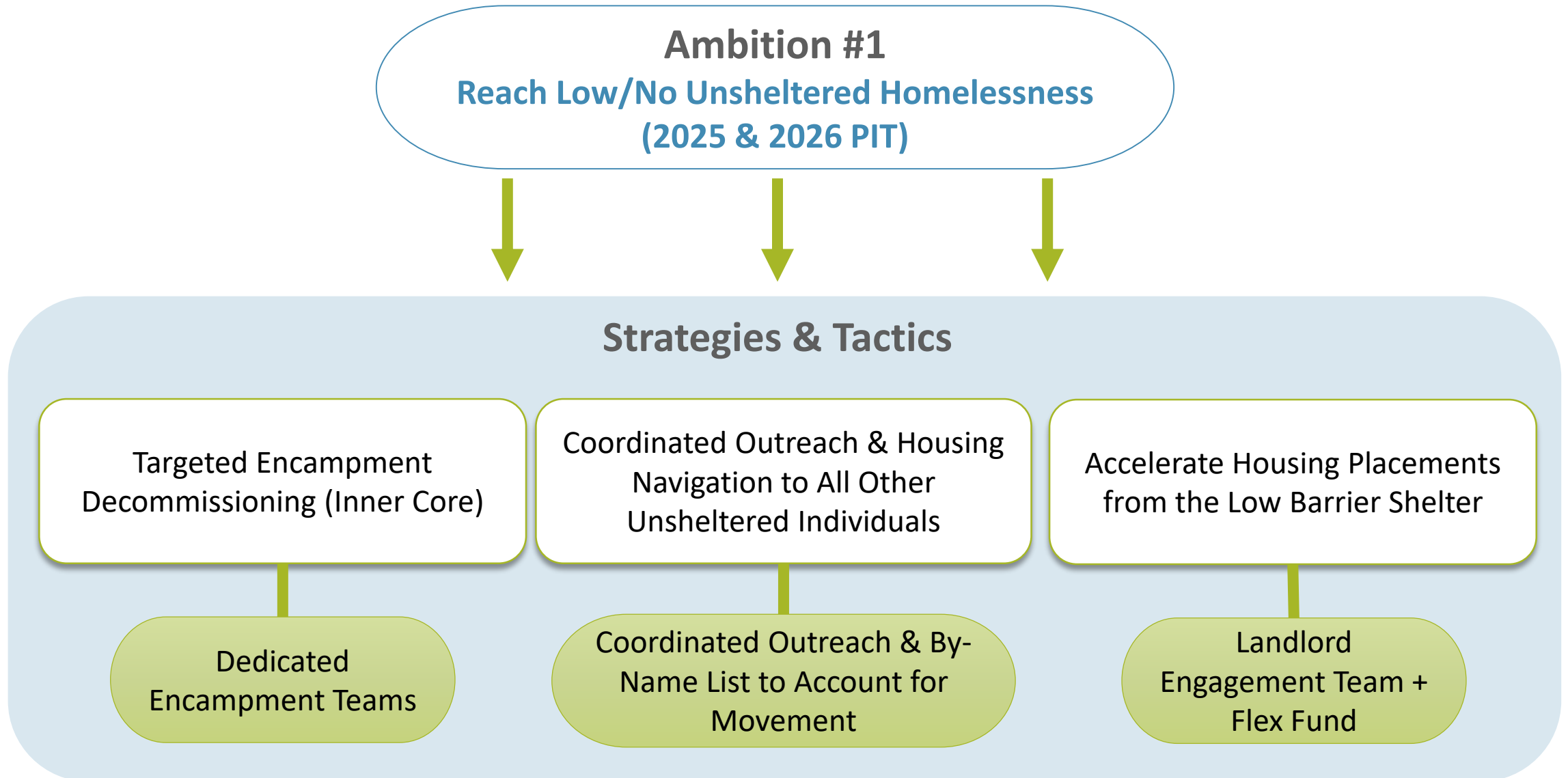
One-time expenses (per person, per year)

Rental	
Subsidies/Utilities/Deposits	\$15,906
Landlord Incentives (Hold	
Fees)	\$873
Move-In Kits	\$1,500
	\$18,273 per person
Total	(max w/ 12 months of assistance prior to long-term voucher)

For 20 individuals (2024)

Housing Case manager	\$68,479.76
Subsidies/Utilities/Deposits	\$318,139
Landlord Incentives	\$17,468
Move-In Kits	\$30,000
Leasing Specialists	\$9,643
TASGNO Administration	\$38,373
Total	\$482,104

Collective Effort to Systematically Reduce *Unsheltered* Homelessness



What's Different About this Approach?



Maximize direct to **Housing + Support Services** pathway – reducing the number of steps, fail points, and time to exit homelessness



Attach supports to housing to create a longer-term safety net



Buy our way into the rental market – financial incentives and dedicated landlord team to support the business relationship

Step 1 – Start the Targeted Encampment Work

(Prep in Progress)

To fully refine our budget and timeline for this Unsheltered Initiative, we must determine:

- Level of incentives needed to get into the market – establish the flex fund
- Quality of the available rental units
- Timeline for gathering vital documents
- Case management capacity and effectiveness
- Closure maintenance partnerships

Step 2 – Update Financial Model & Activate Funding

(In Progress - DRAFT)

Strategies & Tactics

2023-2024

Targeted Encampment
Decommissioning (Inner Core)

2023 - 2025

Coordinated Outreach & Housing
Navigation to All Other
Unsheltered Individuals

2023 & Beyond

Accelerate Housing Placements
from the Low Barrier Shelter

420+ Rehousing Packages

Unsheltered NOFO Award (Secured)

(Includes \$500K in committed cash & \$14M in leveraged services)

150+ Rehousing Packages

UNITY ERA (Secured) + City ARPA (Proposed)

63+ Rehousing Packages

French Quarter Mgmt District (Proposed)

375+ Rehousing Packages
Annually

Existing CoC Funds

(Secured + modest annual expansion)

Future Sustainable Funding
Supporting <90 day stays in
shelter and a safety net to
prevent returns to
homelessness

**Rehousing Package = housing navigation + rental subsidy + case management)*

Step 3 – Activate the Flex Fund for Targeted Encampments

- New Fund
- Provides flexible resources to:
 - hold rental units
 - pay administrative fees (bonuses) to quickly approve and make ready units
 - Utility and other deposits and fees
 - Damage mitigation funds
 - Move-in kits and basic furnishings
- Necessary to move people faster (reduce from 60+ days to <30 days)
- Initial modeling puts this at \$1M+ for targeted encampments (~500 individuals)
- Need about \$100K to get started

**Continued modeling will leverage existing UNITY warehouse and define the necessary level of the flex fund for ongoing rehousing activities.*

Collective Effort to Effectively End Homelessness in NOLA

Ambition #2

**Transform Homeless Response System &
Sustain Low/No Unsheltered Homelessness**



Next Steps

Community Planning and Design
Improvements (Oct – May 2024)

Establish Strategic Command
(Nate's Office + UNITY)

Active Performance
Management



Karley Frankic <kfrankic@fqmd.org>

French Quarter Funds

Nathaniel E Fields <Nathaniel.Fields@nola.gov>
To: Karley Frankic <kfrankic@fqmd.org>, "Jennifer L. Avegno M.D." <Jennifer.Avegno@nola.gov>

Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Hey Karley,

I did know how to prepare today, and I do apologize for all the confusion, but here is what I am think for funds, Dr. Avegno please correct me if I am too far off! I have put in the full numbers, but if we can get the money just for Rental subsidies and rapid rehousing/security deposit, landlord incentives as well as move in kits we can help house 40 people withing the French Quarter. The final numbers look like \$742,281. This would be a great help to move these folks into housing and also be able to help others in the future, if we show to be good stewards of the money!

French Quarter

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Rental Subsidies/Utilities (including security deposit)	636,281
Case Management	111,897
Housing Navigation	19,287
Administration	76,747
Total Eligible for Public Funding	844,212

Landlord Incentives (Hold Fees)	46,000
Move-In Kits	60,000
Expanded Management Capacity	-
Total Needed in Private Funding	106,000

950,212

Nate Fields

Director of Homeless Services

Office of Mayor LaToya Cantrell

City of New Orleans | 1340 Poydras St. | Suite 962 | New Orleans, LA 70112

(504) 658.4148

Targeted Encampment Decommissioning Flex Fund

New Orleans Homeless Population

The 2023 Homeless Count showed that we had 1,390 people experiencing homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish on the night of the count and 40% were unsheltered. It also showed that 22% of homeless veterans are unsheltered. Overall, 31% of people experiencing homelessness are over the age 55 and 34% of those over 55 are unsheltered.

Encampment Housing Effort

Encampment rehousing is an intentional, structured effort to offer unsheltered individuals in established encampments of 3 or more people, safe and dignified temporary and permanent housing solutions prior to closing an area or reactivating it for general use.

The encampment housing effort aims to reach the goal of ending chronic unsheltered homelessness through a targeted effort that begins with rehousing over 500 persons living in encampments in the inner core. This effort is a critical feature of a comprehensive Unsheltered Initiative that aims to reach low or no unsheltered homelessness in New Orleans within 2 years. This bold community goal requires establishing a public/private partnership to create pathways to permanent housing for people living unsheltered in support of ending long term, chronic homelessness and closing encampments permanently throughout the City.

The Challenge

The only way to effectively target encampments is to provide a direct to housing solution which requires more than the traditional housing subsidies and wrap-around supportive services to rapidly rehouse entire encampments within a matter of weeks. These additional services include access to rental units, access to critical documents, security deposits, basic furniture and household items, various housing-related fees, and landlord incentives. Individual service providers usually cannot afford to fill these needs, as they may not be covered through existing federal, state, and local government grants that fund their programs.

The Solution

When a minor but impactful expenditure impedes a client from ending their homelessness, a flexible fund may pay for it. Expenses may include one or more of the following:

<i>Unit Incentives</i>	Cash incentive in the form of hold fees, signing bonuses, damage mitigation etc.
<i>Furniture</i>	Basic furniture to set up apartment- bed, table, couch, etc.
<i>Move In Kits</i>	Necessities to set up the household- food, dishes, toiletries, cleaning products etc.
<i>Fees</i>	Property admin fees, pet fees, application fees, document fees for IDs, etc.

The Flex Fund

A fund has been established at United Way to position the newly established New Orleans Office of Homeless Services to work in partnership with UNITY and the provider community to administer a flex fund for the encampment housing effort. This fund is designed to be a public/private partnership and ensure the full array of services are available to support the effort. United Way will maintain the funds and disperse payment as approved by the Office of Homeless Services and in accordance with an approved business operations plan. The following represents a funding schedule to maintain the proposed pace for the effort.

\$100,000	September 2023 (Initial Investment Necessary to Launch Effort)
\$750,000	December 2023
\$1,325,000	March 2024**

**Future flex fund needs will be evaluated and included in a new community plan to sustain low or no unsheltered homelessness and shared with city officials and private donors in the late spring.



Covenant House New Orleans is a leader in serving unhoused youth, having served the Greater New Orleans community from our location at the edge of the French Quarter since 1987. As part of a federation of Covenant Houses, we leverage resources and share information to identify trends and best practices and operate efficiently, yet independently in our governance and finances and are able to accommodate the unique geographic, cultural and socio-economic characteristics of our regions. Best practices developed from decades of research and services, inform our service to youth who are experiencing homelessness during their critical teen and early adulthood years, years which can set them on a trajectory for years to come. Many of the youth we serve have been unable to succeed in or complete their education and lack self-sufficiency skills but hold hope for completing their education. It is unreasonable to expect youth, homeless or not, to be able to generate an income to meet their basic needs or manage a household. Many are beginning to enter relationships and engage in risky sexual behaviors, willingly or unwillingly, which can result in devastating STIs and pregnancy, which requires intensive supports for the best health outcomes and impacts children born into young families. Add to that circumstances like adolescent onset mental illness, the harm of abuse and trafficking (to which they are especially vulnerable) and inability to access resources as minors, and youth are uniquely at-risk and require additional supports to thrive and enter into adulthood successfully.

Our first line of interaction with many young people is often through our Outreach team. Though they cover a large regional area, they conduct daily trips (excl. Sunday), in pairs, traversing the French Quarter neighborhood to reach and serve unhoused youth in that area in vehicles and occasionally on foot. Their focus is youth in Covenant House New Orleans' service population, young people ages 16-22, including pregnant and parenting youth and their children. Many of the young people they encounter are in survival mode, having left or been ousted from housing (and generally unstable or unsafe housing). Many have multiple layers of trauma and need related to neglect, exploitation, abuse, familial rejection, family homelessness, trafficking, mental illness, and more, and have been failed many times in their short lives by adults and systems. Critical to our Outreach teams' work is the ability to revisit the same areas and engage with youth to meet their immediate needs, sometimes the same youth, as many times as it takes to build rapport and trust so that they can enter shelter and leave the dangers of street life behind.

The team travels approximately 5 miles each day and an average of 28 hours each week, winding through the French Quarter with special emphasis on areas where youth are known or are more likely to be located. Outreach team members provide outreach and hygiene kits and meals when possible, listening to youths' stories and needs and encouraging them to enter shelter at Covenant House New Orleans. Current challenges include rising and or fluctuating costs for insurance, gas and outreach supplies as our economy continues to recover post-COVID.

Covenant House New Orleans has an 88 bed campus on the Tremé edge of the French Quarter which has 24/7 open intake. Our emergency intake shelter served 288 youth last year and in total, we served 697 youth last year. In addition to emergency shelter provided on our campus, we also house the Tulane Drop-In Clinic, which provides medical services to youth in the community and youth at Covenant House and is another way we can reach youth and build trust to help them choose to our longer term shelter program. Just under half of youth exited to stable housing. Because we operate through a trauma-informed lens, are committed to relentlessly supporting youth and understand that progress is not linear and is sometimes delayed by their unique and often painful circumstances, we allow youth to re-enter shelter.

Along with safe shelter, we provide intensive case management and comprehensive wellness, workforce and education programs, nutritional support, parenting support, along a tiered continuum of residential services. From outreach, through our 24/7 emergency intake shelter services to supported residential services in the community, we are committed to equitable, trauma-informed care and our promise is to serve our youth with unconditional love, absolute respect and relentless support.

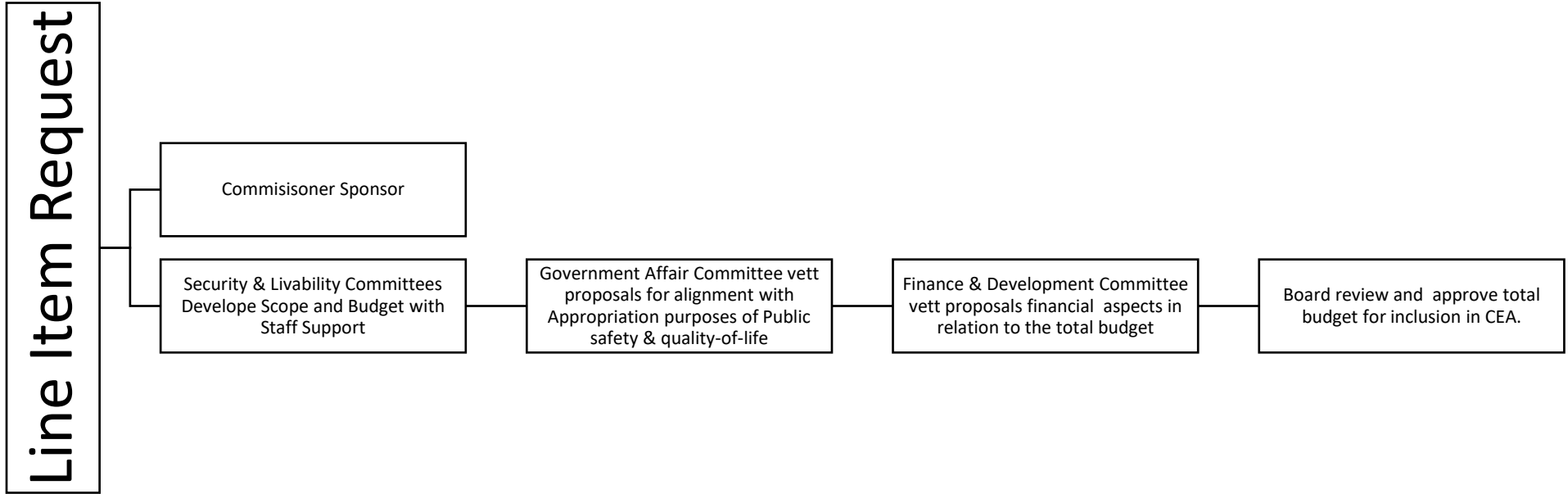
Materials & Supplies			
Outreach Supplies - food		\$4,500.00	<i>Incentives such as food help us meet the immediate needs of youth on the street so we can build the trust they need to come to Covenant House</i>
Outreach Supplies - informational items		\$5,000.00	Sometimes, we encounter youth who will not come with us and need more time to decide to seek shelter. Additionally, they may not be sober. Having something we can leave with them for later consideration is very useful.
Outreach Supplies - hygiene kits		\$5,000.00	While many of the items that we use for outreach are donated, they are rarely sufficient in number/frequency or wide-ranging enough in variety to adequately meet the needs of youth, who are as diverse as the general population. Hygiene kits often include items that not only provide for general bodily care, but prevent longer term effects associated with living on the street which can result in a high cost not only to the youth, but to the community related to infectious disease, preventable chronic conditions with high associated care costs and more.
Coolers	2	\$500.00	Especially during the hot months, it is necessary that we have coolers that can keep items like water or popsicles cold/frozen to hand out to youth.
Transportation			
Transportation		\$35,000.00	<i>Transportation for outreach team to traverse the French Quarter and funds to send youth back home when possible in line with our commitment to safe and appropriate family reunification.</i>
Mileage		\$743.60	<i>5 miles a day, 5.5 days/week</i>

Gas		\$5,005.00	5 miles a day, 5.5 days/week	
TOTAL		\$55,748.60		

State Appropriation Parking Lot

1. Public Safety Force-Multiplier Programs – Security & Enforcement Committee
 - a. Expansion of existing non-NOPD POST supplemental foot patrol program. (Raines & Cooper) Duplicating walking patrols in larger footprint but not static in vehicle shifts.
 - b. Improved Lighting (Bilby) City owned asset Glade approach City
 - c. Enforcement (Bilby)
2. Quality of Life Programs – Livability Committee
 - a. DDD proven successful programs
 - i. Graffiti abatement – private property (Cooper & Gasperecz)
 - ii. Supplemental sanitation (Pendleton)
 1. Sidewalk deep cleaning
 2. Trash receptacles
 - iii. Monitoring and removal of impediments in the sidewalk and street right-of-way (traffic control devices) (Caputo)
 - b. Recycling Program (Raines) Glass Half Full new program? Tie into coastal restoration?
 - c. Homeless Consultant – French Quarter master plan – TASGNO recommendations? (Raines)
 - d. N. Rampart Traffic Calming and Stormwater Management (Holmes & Carbone)
 - i. Curb Extensions
 - ii. Protected bike lane
 - e. Catch basin clean out contract (Pendleton) City owned asset
 - f. Signage (NO&Co. Caputo?) parking compliance, corner striping (DPW-735?), no parking zones delineated.
3. Administration Support
 - a. Contract staff and overhead costs
 - i. Project Based Programs Manager
 1. Oversee supplemental sanitation
 2. Monitor infrastructure to report to 311
 3. Manage graffiti abatement program
 - ii. Staffing Overhead
 1. Rent
 2. Office Furniture
 3. Computer
 4. Software
 - iii. Program Oversight
 1. Insurance
 2. Accounting
 3. Audit
 4. IT Support

2023	Board of Commissioners	Finance & Dev Cmte	Gov Affairs Cmte	Livability Cmte	Security & Enforcement Cmte
TIME	14:00	15:00	14:00	15:00	11:00
CHAIR	Raines	Zumbo	Pendleton	Gasperecz	Cooper
VICE-CHAIR	Gasperecz	Raines	Bilby	Holmes	Caputo
November	11/13/2023	11/1/2023		11/6/2023	11/27/2023
December	12/11/2023	12/5/2023		12/4/2023	12/18/2023



Keep the Quarter Clean Tabling Event

Night Out Against Crime Block Party
October 17th, 2023



KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTFIUL AFFILIATE

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Overview

The French Quarter Management District's (FQMD) Keep the Quarter Clean Program was invited to table at the Upper French Quarter National Night Out Against Crime Block Party with the New Orleans Police Department's Eighth District for the second year in a row. FQMD staff, along with volunteers from the FQMD's Livability Committee, passed out Keep the Quarter Clean window decals, and pins and informative bi-fold brochures outlining the Sanitation Laws and Services in the neighborhood speaking with residents and local business owners about the available Sanitation services.



Event Details

The event was held on Tuesday,

October 17th from 5pm to 8pm with a turnout of eight volunteers. FQMD staff engaged with over 50 attendees about the resources that the sanitation contractor KBS offers to the French Quarter neighborhood. Volunteers and staff encouraged attendees to utilize the Quarter Clean email to report any issues regarding organic waste, trash piles, litter, and pressure washing.

Community members were thrilled to hear about these services, some of whom had no idea that this resource was available. Feedback from residents was positive, with a handful of

individuals stating that they regularly use the email and are happy with the quick responses that they've received from KBS. Over 30 brochures were given away, as well as 13 window decals, and five pins. Engagement with the Community has already shown impactful results, with emails to Quarter Clean increasing in number the following morning and continuing throughout the week.

A collage of French Quarter Management District materials. At the top left is the 'KEEP THE QUARTER CLEAN' logo. To its right is the 'French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT' logo with a QR code and contact information. Below these are several informational brochures: 'Sanitation Laws' (listing residential, commercial, and animal waste rules), 'Sanitation Services' (listing garbage collection, recycling, and street cleaning), and 'Clean and Sanitize' (listing organic waste removal and litter can collection). A map of the French Quarter is also included.

This is a public service message from the French Quarter Management District, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana. 10/17/18

French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of October

98%

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



Graffiti removed from 1433 spaces of public property in October

99%

Street Flushing Completed



100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed

0

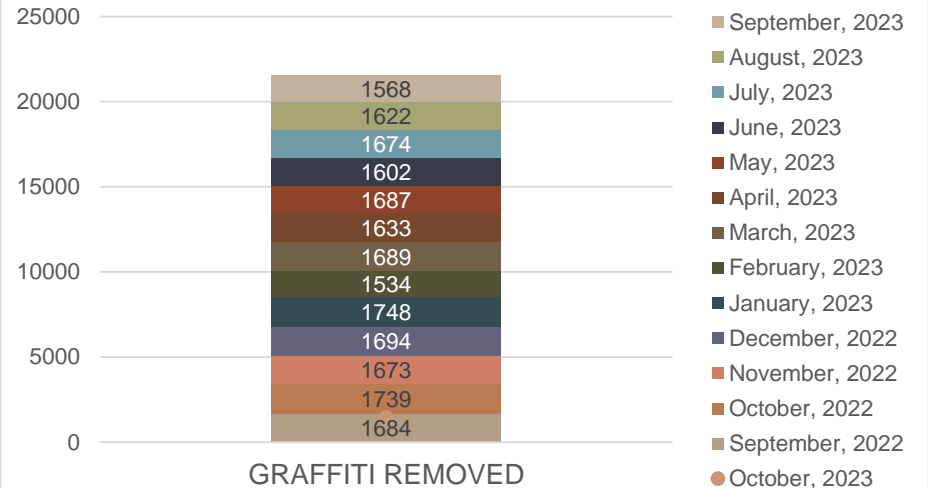
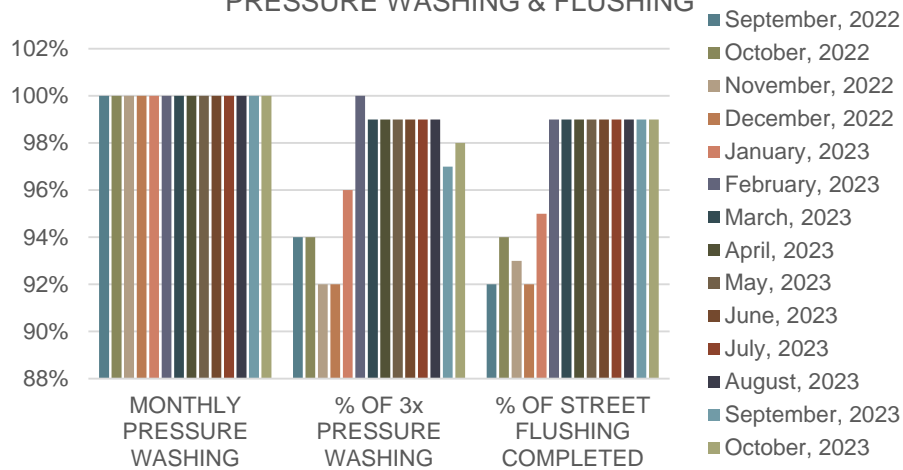
Instances of speeding 5+ miles over the speed limit over 120 routes in **October**



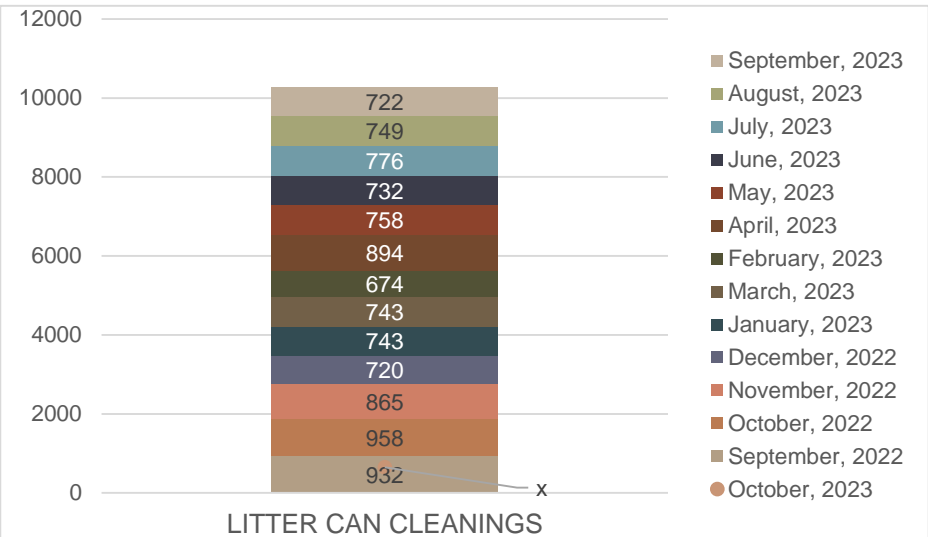
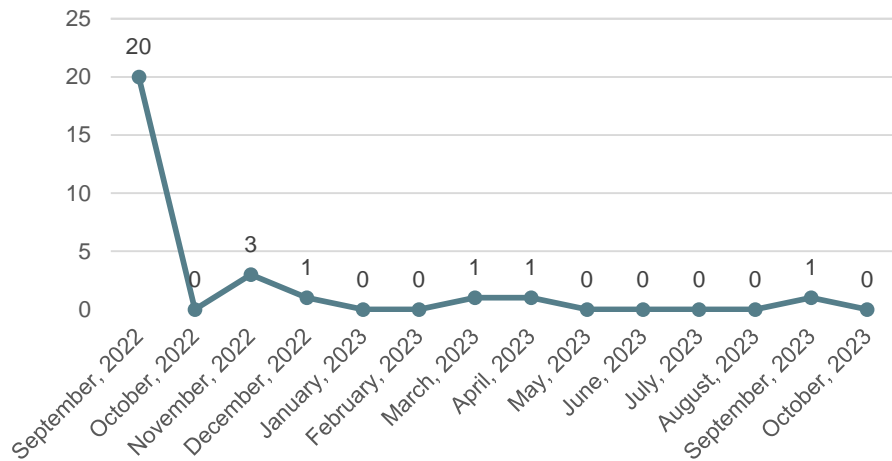
647

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew

PRESSURE WASHING & FLUSHING



INSTANCES OF SPEEDING



French Quarter
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

COMMENT CARD

Date: 11-6-23

Name: Andrew Monteverde

Address: 4431 Loyola Ave #A New Orleans 70115

mont632@noiafirefighters

Email (optional): .com Phone (optional): 504-235-6386

Are you being paid in connection with your comment? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Agenda item to which the comment pertains: none

Brief overview of what you wish to discuss: Public safety and lack of parking

enforcement

NOTE: ONCE SUBMITTED THIS CARD BECOMES A PUBLIC RECORD