

## LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

Monday, 4 March 2024, 3:00 pm

*Covenant House, Board Room*

*611 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA 70112*

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Jane	Cooper	FQMD Chair
Alex	Dunkenberger	City's CAO Office
Gretchen	Byers	VCPORA

#### 2. Public Comment:

No written public comment was received.

#### 3. Motion – Consider a motion to approve the previous meeting notes

**Rene Fransen motioned to approve the previous meeting notes. Antonio Carbone seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

#### 4. Committee Chair's Comments

Vice-Chair Erin Holmes led the meeting in Chair Mamie Gasperecz's absence and thanked the Committee for their hard work.

#### 5. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of North Rampart Infrastructure and Safety Updates. To Present: Erin Holmes and Antonio Carbone

Mr. Carbone reported that both Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been released and the final proposals are due by March 7<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the team charging this project will be reviewing and scoring the proposals this Friday. Mr. Carbone added that if any Committee members knew of contractors who were considering to submit a proposal, to encourage them to do so. He reported that the permit request process has been initiated by the FQMD, stating that the flashing beacons, flex posts, and

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methacrylate paint colors all need City approval. Karley Frankic stated that a reminder email to the contractor vendor list was sent out this afternoon to encourage vendors to submit bids, noting that FQMD staff did not receive any questions by the deadline. Mr. Carbone stated that working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been a great partnership and added that the DPW helped move this process along quickly.

## 6. Discussion – Update on Supplemental Sanitation – Glass Half Full Recycling for Gulf Coast Restoration.

### a. Results of the Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Program

See attached document. Ms. Holmes was happy to report that the program was a success and that 3,346 pounds (about one and a half tons) of Mardi Gras beads were collected during this initiative. She stated that seven hotels participated, noting that there were more hotels interested in participating in the program who will have the chance to join the cause next Carnival season. Ms. Holmes suggested that next year's planning can begin in advance to expand the program.

### b. French Quarter Glass Recycling Next Steps

Jane Cooper reported that final approval for all three drop-off sites is still needed, noting that the goal is to launch the initiative on April 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that Glass Half Full has already ordered the bins and will update the Committee on when to expect the delivery. Ms. Holmes will call to confirm the approval of the drop-off locations this week. Ms. Cooper suggested that with the funds put aside for marketing, a campaign for French Quarter glass recycling can be implemented to raise awareness for residents and businesses in the French Quarter.

## 7. Discussion – Update on Supplemental Sanitation - Additional Trash Receptacles. To Present: Karley D. Frankic

### a. Trash Receptacle Location Fieldwork Results

Ms. Holmes reported that the fieldwork set to take place last week will be rescheduled due to last week's inclement weather. She noted that there will be updates provided at the next Committee meeting. Ms. Frankic added that the order of the receptacles can still proceed in the meantime.

## 8. Discussion – Update on Streetlight Repairs and Survey Fieldwork. To Present: Karley D. Frankic

See attached map. Ms. Frankic reported that last Thursday a streetlight assessment was conducted by volunteers from the FQMD, the Vieux Carre Property Owners, Residents, and Associates (VCPORA), and Cops8. She stated that the main focus during the fieldwork were the streetlights located near crime hotspots. Ms. Frankic reported that of the 90 poles assessed in these hotspots, 29% were not functioning. She noted that she is waiting on clarification from the DPW on the difference between the poles listed with a "bad refractor" compared to those listed with a "bad bulb" in the DPW's streetlight report. Ms. Frankic stated that it was agreed at the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) Agreement Monitors meeting last month that, of the \$150,000 in the FQEDD budget allocated towards streetlight maintenance, the main priority should be to repair the lights located in the crime hotspots. She reported that the DPW is currently drafting an RFP specifically for the \$150,000.

## 9. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of City Sanitation Contract

Ms. Holmes reported that Sanitation's goal is to release the RFP by the end of March. Alex Dunkenberger confirmed this timeline. Ms. Frankic added that at the last Livability Committee meeting, the Committee members discussed the sanitation criteria as well as recommendations, noting that Ms. Gasperecz said that she spoke to the Board of Commissioners at the previous Board meeting on this matter. Mr. Carbone stated that he would love to see a recap of the contract's criteria whenever it is written to compare it to the recommendations made by the Committee as well as to be able to share the information with residents to raise awareness. He noted that this information would help businesses and residents hold the government accountable and would help residents know what they can and cannot report to Sanitation. Ms. Frankic suggested updating the Sanitation's services on the Keep the Quarter Clean brochure based on the new contract terms. She stated that she hopes that the selected contractor will continue to work with FQMD staff through the Quarter Clean email. Mr. Dunkenberger will provide updates to the Committee on the RFP process. He stated that once the contract is released, it will be public record. Ms. Holmes suggested keeping this topic on future Committee meeting agendas to circle back each month to the discussion.

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## 10. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Keep Louisiana Beautiful Love the Boot Week Event.

Ms. Frankic reported that, as a Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) affiliate, the FQMD is required to do a cleanup event for Love the Boot week, which will be held April 20<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>. She stated in 2019 VCPORA teamed up with the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association (FMIA) and performed a cleanup of Esplanade Avenue, and asked the Committee members if they liked the idea of performing another cleanup of Esplanade Avenue for this event. She added that KLB will be sending a cleanup kit to the FQMD office this month full of supplies for the cleanup volunteers. The Committee agreed that Esplanade would be a good target area to focus on for the event. Mr. Fransen suggested that the “No Parking on neutral ground” signs be cleaned, noting that they are covered in algae and hard to read. He added that with the amount of leaves and trash on the ground, a cleanup would be good for the area. Graham Williams stated that he can loan a device intended to pick up sharp objects that could be beneficial for safety precautions during the cleanup. Ms. Frankic reported that volunteers have already signed up to help the cause. Ms. Frankic will reach out to the FMIA to see if they are interested in partnering with the FQMD for the cleanup event. The Committee tentatively planned for this initiative to take place on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

Mr. Carbone asked if the Committee had suggestions for reporting noise complaints for businesses, pointing out that he has not had success with utilizing 311. Ms. Holmes suggested that a better strategy than 311 would be to start a dialogue with the businesses causing the disturbances, Howie Kaplan with the Office of Nighttime Economy, and Councilmembers from District “C” to discuss how to enforce this issue. She stated that a meeting was held with residents, Nighttime Economy, and a bar manager that opened up communication and agreements were able to be made between all parties. Ms. Frankic noted that the Community Liaison Officers are now fully trained to use the sound meters. Mr. Fransen pointed out that loud vehicles have also been a problem for the neighborhood. Ms. Frankic reported that Cpt. Roberts stated that this will be an area of focus for the Eighth District this year.

Ms. Cooper reported that at the last Board meeting, the Commissioners discussed having a flyer prepared with contact information for homeless services so that residents and businesses know who they can report to regarding unhoused individuals who may need immediate services or may be a danger to others. She stated that she would like the Livability Committee to take charge of this project and to prepare a flyer that they can take back to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Holmes agreed that because the Livability Committee has been working with TASGNO, Nathaniel Fields, and Covenant House, this would be an appropriate task for the Committee to take on.

## 12. Next Meeting Date:

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

## 13. Adjournment

**Mr. Carbone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.**

## Glass Half Full Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Results

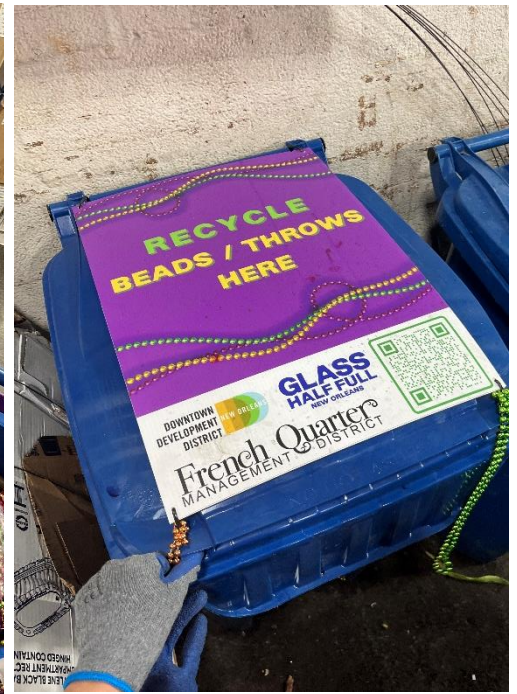
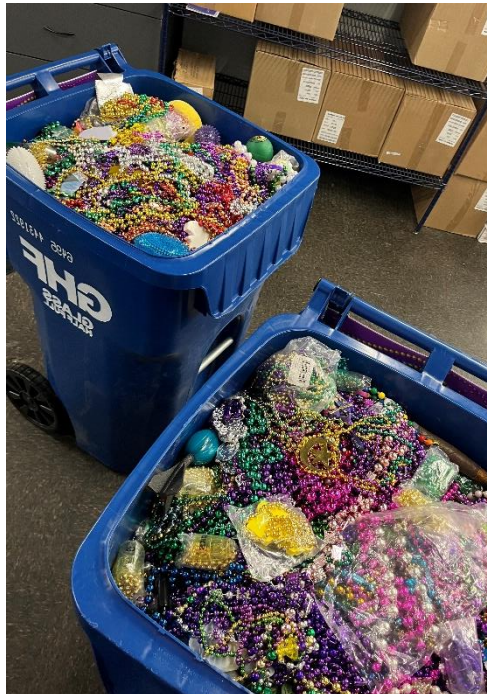
This Carnival season, the French Quarter Management District teamed up with Glass Half Full, the Downtown Development District, and the Vieux Carre Property Owners, Residents, & Associates to collect **3,346 pounds** of Mardi Gras beads for recycling.

FQMD brought the Mardi Gras bead recycling program to French Quarter hotels and the Canal Street parade route from February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>. Seven hotels participated this year, including:

- Courtyard New Orleans Downtown
- Crowne Plaza
- Hotel Monteleone
- Hyatt Centric French Quarter
- New Orleans Marriott
- Sheraton New Orleans
- Ritz-Carlton New Orleans



A number of other hotels have expressed interest in joining the initiative next year. We expect to be able to lead the program again next Carnival season. This program also counts towards FQMD's Affiliate membership with Keep Louisiana Beautiful as our annual recycling event.





## French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of February

**99%**

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



100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed



Graffiti removed from 1268 spaces of public property in February

**98%**

Street Flushing Completed



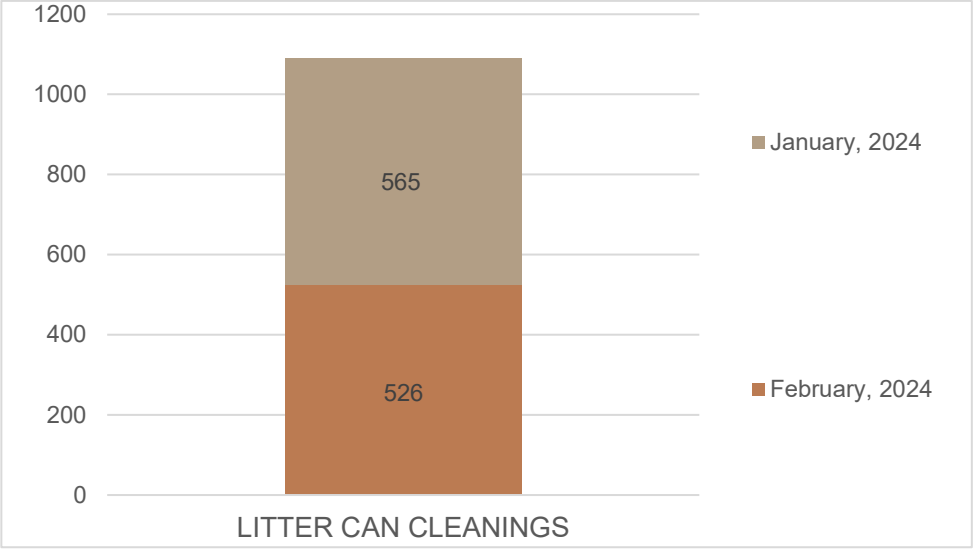
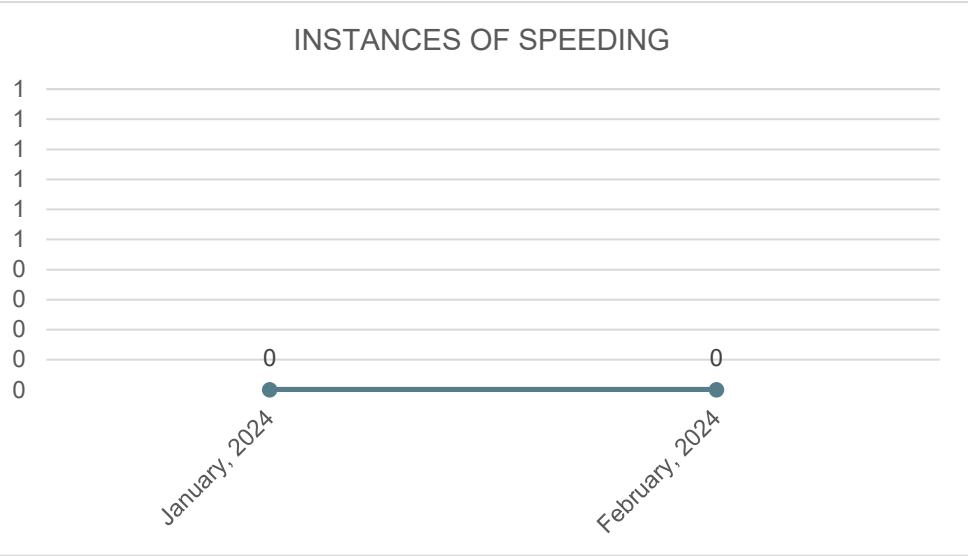
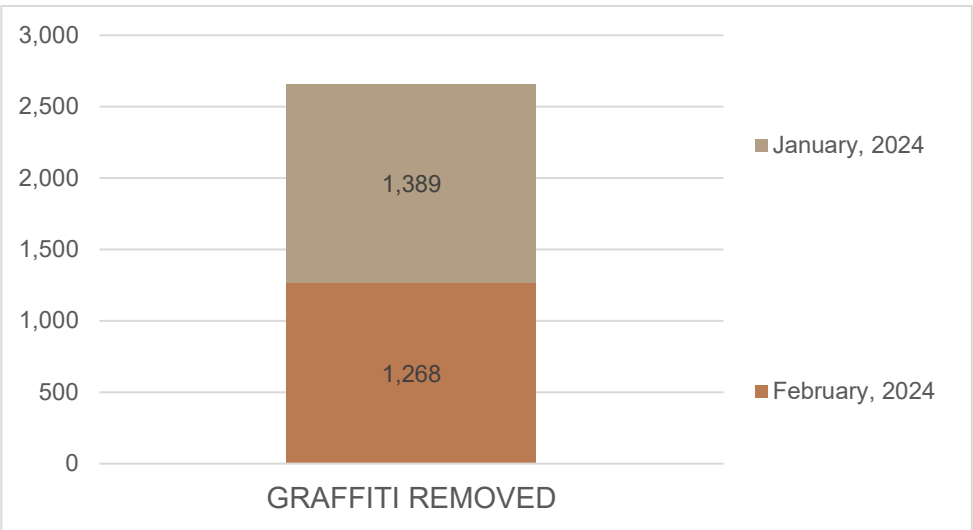
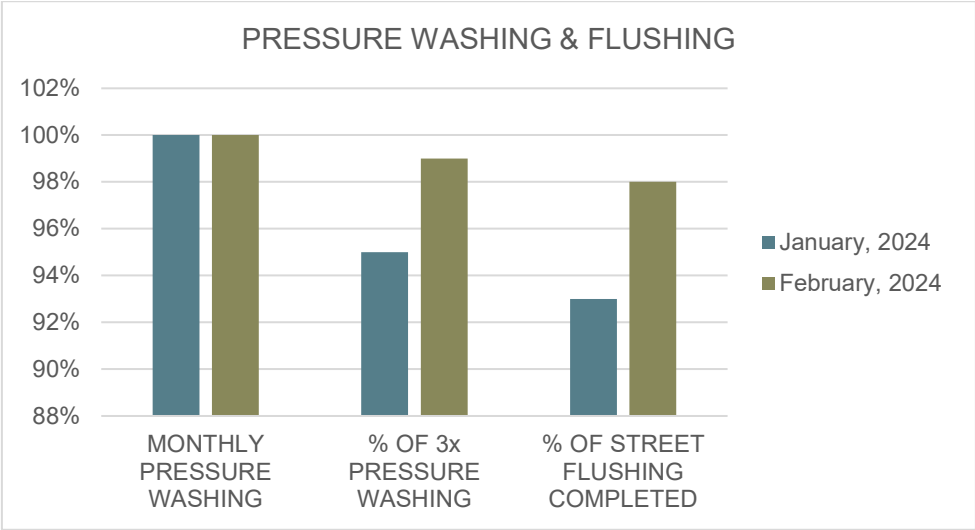
**0**

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



**526**

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew



# 2024/02/29 Streetlight Assessment

