

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 3:00 pm

French Quarter Festival Annex Room

400 North Peters Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent
Glade	Bilby	X	
Christian	Pendleton		X
Heidi	Raines		X
David	Bilbe	X	

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

GUESTS		
First	Last	Role
Michelle	Courseault	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Joey	DiFatta	FQMD Commissioner
Jane	Cooper	FQMD Board Chair
Alex	Dunkenberger	CAO
Elizabeth	Kuebel	WDSU
Alvin	Moore	WDSU

2. Public Comment:

No written public comment was received.

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

No action was taken due to a lack of a quorum of Committee members.

4. Committee Chair's Comments

Chair Glade Bilby thanked the Committee for their attendance and welcomed the guests.

a. August Committee Meeting Date

Michelle Courseault, FQMD Executive Director, recommended that the Committee add a meeting date in August in order to review the marketing direct mailing list and educational materials for the Quarter for the Quarter tax renewal. The Committee agreed on adding a 3 PM meeting for Wednesday, August 13th, 2025.

5. Discussions –

a. Tax Renewal Marketing Campaign – Website Updates

Mr. G. Bilby reported that everything is on schedule for the tax renewal timeline. He reviewed the live changes made to the FQMD website with the Committee, stating that the updates made by Studio Mundi have helped to make the website more dynamic and visually eye-catching. Ms. Courseault noted that the website showcases statistics of all the FQMD's public safety

programs, adding that further updates will be made to reflect statistics as far back as 2021 when the tax was last up for renewal. The Committee agreed that marketing materials should be released at the end of August.

b. July 30 Hotels & Lodging Association Ballot Presentation Material*

See attached document. Ms. Courseault reviewed the materials she has prepared for the July 30th Hotels & Lodging Association Ballot Presentation, asking the Committee to provide any feedback or revisions. David Bilbe stated that he had no revisions for the document, and suggested that the website be an interactive part of the presentation as well. He recommended that Ms. Courseault ask the group for a letter of support for the continuation of the Quarter for the Quarter tax, and ask that the group spread their public support for the tax through signage and social media. Mr. G. Bilby agreed, adding that it may be beneficial to list on the FQMD's website all of the appointing agencies in support of the tax renewal.

c. 2026 Budget Planning

Ms. Courseault reported that throughout July and August all Committees will be discussing budget options for next year. She suggested that the Government Affairs Committee begin brainstorming ideas now so that after the August 13th Committee meeting, a final budget draft can be passed along to the Finance & Development Committee and the Board for final approval. Mr. G. Bilby stated that, because this Committee does not have the same operational responsibilities as the other Committees, there will not be a lot of budgetary obligations. The Committee agreed on putting a line item in the budget for PR and marketing materials, as well as a line item for potential networking events.

6. Updates –

a. Louisiana State Police addition to French Quarter Patrols

Mr. G. Bilby reported that he has been working with Jessica Dietz, Vice-Chair of the Security & Enforcement Committee, to write a proposal that would add Louisiana State Police (LSP) into the UQP, noting that the LSP would be working in coordination with the NOPD and the Eighth District. He added that this proposal will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the July 14th meeting.

b. Economic Impact Study Request For Proposals Next Steps (Alex Dunkenberger)

Alex Dunkenberger reported that he has been working with Ms. Courseault to find a way that the FQMD can go through procurement for the study without having to go through the City's lengthy procurement process. Mr. G. Bilby stated that this study will be important in showing the value of the French Quarter and the FQMD to all stakeholders and City and State representatives. He thanked Mr. Dunkenberger and Ms. Courseault for moving this process forward.

c. Emergency Sanitation

Ms. Courseault noted that this was an error on the agenda. No updates were discussed.

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

No new business was discussed.

8. Next Meeting Date:

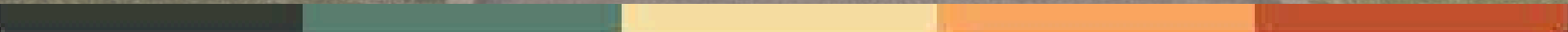
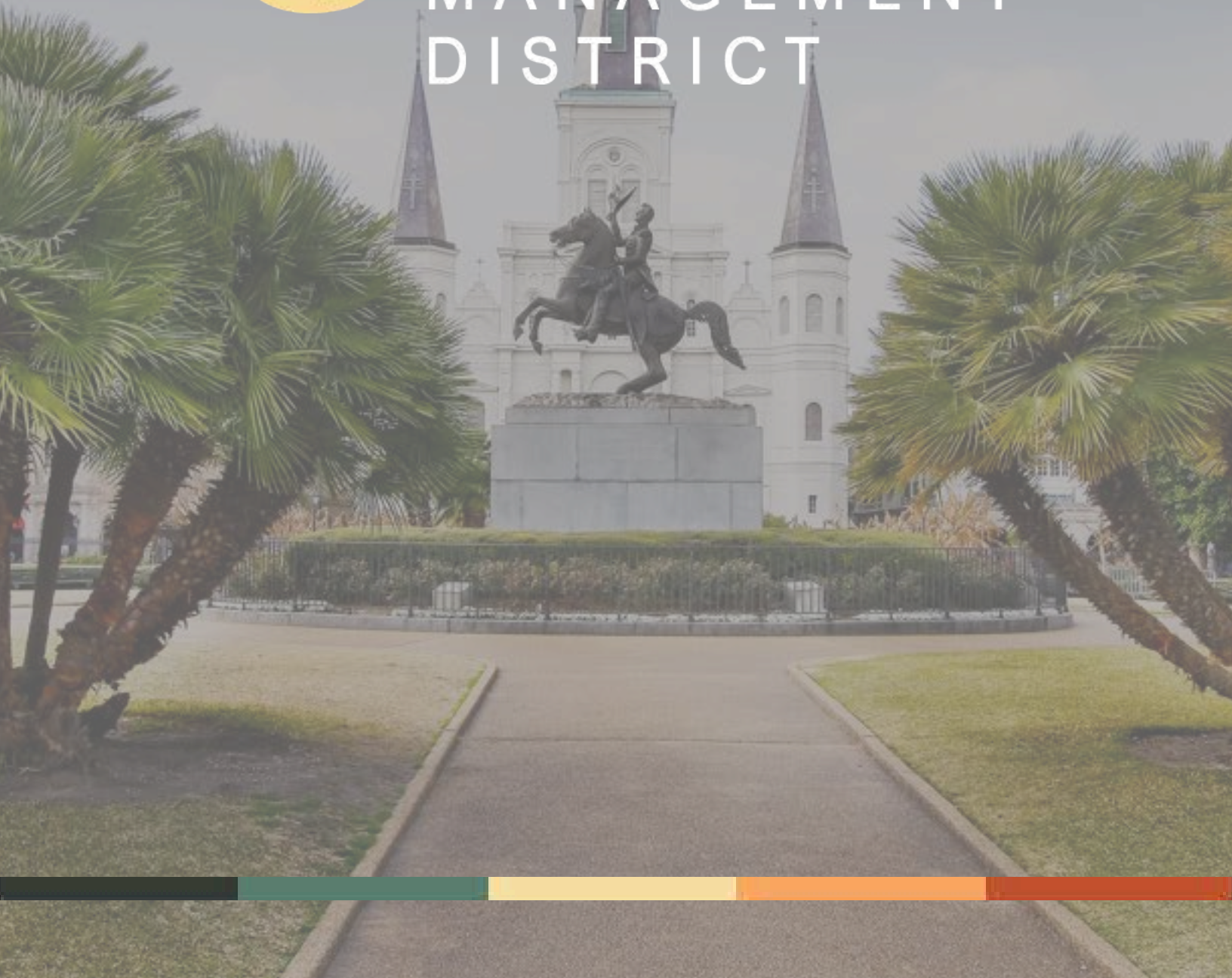
The next scheduled meeting date of the Committee is Wednesday, August 13th, 2025 at 3 PM.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM.

French Quarter

MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT





Making the French Quarter a better place to live, work and visit
0.245 cents of every dollar spent on food, drinks and shopping in the French Quarter is used to improve the French Quarter for residents.

The French Quarter tourist tax of 0.245% passed in 2020, funding the French Quarter Management District's safety programs for five years. In that time, the FQMD has worked with state and local officials to make substantial improvements to the security and quality of life in the French Quarter.

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE QUARTER FOR THE QUARTER TAX

**MORE
PATROLS**

**STREET
LIGHTS**

**CRIME
CAMERAS**

**FQ TASK
FORCE
APP**

Executive Director's Note

I am proud to have joined the French Quarter Management District as its new Executive Director in late October 2024 and continue the great work started by my predecessors: to make the Quarter a better place to live, work and visit. From the January 1 tragedy to the unity of the Super Bowl and the spirit of Mardi Gras, FQMD has stayed focused—expanding public safety efforts, jumpstarting infrastructure projects, and setting the stage for continued improvements to the quality of life throughout the Quarter. In my first year, I've been inspired by the passion, pride, and resilience of our French Quarter community.

M. Courseault



**MICHELLE
COURSEAULT**
Executive Director, FQMD

MORE PATROLS

The added French Quarter Patrols are comprised of both NOPD Supplemental Police Patrol Program (“SPPP”) who proactively patrol the French Quarter streets 24/7 and the Upper Quarter Patrol, a detail of active off-duty Sheriff’s



Office officers performing pro-active foot patrols and in the “blue light” emergency vehicles, to deter crime in the Quarter. These patrols enhance law enforcement presence and help promote a greater sense of public safety in the Quarter. Officers use a Task Force mobile app to respond instantly to reports of disturbances, illicit vending, drug activity, and crimes in progress.

High visibility (“blue light” patrols) have proven effective at deterring crime, removing guns, drugs, trespassers, and enforcing traffic and parking violations.

Key Performance Results

App Response Time **6 mins**

Citizen Contacts **5,262**

Business Checks **4,490**

Shifts Filled **95%**

Summons **24**

Traffic Citations **195**

Subjects Moved **3,628**

App Calls **1220**

Violent Crimes

43%



STREET LIGHTS

Lighting is the first step to a safer, cleaner and more secure neighborhood for residents, businesses and visitors. The \$1.75 million Street Lights Repair project, began in November of 2024 when 945 individual streetlight in the French

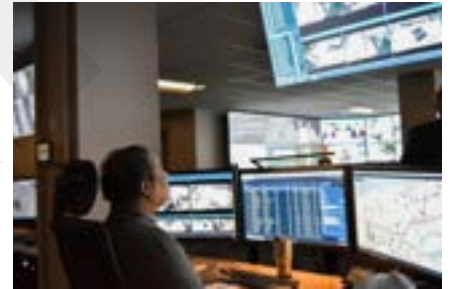
**500+
St. Lights
Repaired**



Quarter were assessed for repair. To replace broken or missing century-old iron arms on the streetlamps, FQMD turned to other southern cities with historic neighborhoods who could supply these rare parts, including St. Petersburg, FL. To date, 500+ lights have been repaired.

CRIME CAMERAS

The French Quarter Management District (FQMD) is proud to support the SafeCam NOLA program and promote direct camera integration with the New Orleans Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC). When your camera connects in real time, it becomes more than a deterrent – it becomes a powerful, proactive tool in public safety.



**95 new French Quarter
Crime Cameras**

**2
min**

FRENCH QUARTER TASK FORCE APP
The FQ Task Force App has reduced response time in the French Quarter to less than two minutes. The app allows you to report incidents quickly and confidentially. Attach photos or take a picture with your cell phone's camera to include with your report. It is also used to provide accountability and oversight along with electronic trip sheets and time sheets. End-of-shift reports can easily be run to assess if the officers are proactively patrolling their assigned area of the Quarter.



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