



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday 27 April 2026

2:00 pm

Via Teleconference:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/2047589217>

Meeting ID: 204 758 9217

Video:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/personallink.html>

Audio: +1 (469) 445 0100

Commissioners Present: Glade Bilby, Christine Bondio, Steve Caputo, Jane Cooper, Alex Fein, Mamie Gasperez, Sue Klein, Christian Pendleton, Heidi Raines, Frank Zumbo

Commissioners Absent: David Bilbe, Joey DiFatta

Executive Director: Michelle Courseault

Coordinator: Shelby Ursu

Guests: Erin Holmes, Jessica Dietz, Taylor Diles, Kevin Ferguson, Cpt. Sam Palumbo, Chad Pellerin

- I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES – Chair Ms. Bondio called the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) April 27th, 2026 regular meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Klein called the roll.
- II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS – Ms. Bondio
Ms. Bondio welcomed the Commissioners and guests and provided the brief updates listed below:
 - a. Annual Personal Financial Disclosure – [Form 417](#) is due by May 15, 2026 and must be submitted to FQMD Secretary Ms. Klein.
 - b. Legal Counsel – Ms. Bondio reported that four Request for Qualifications have been submitted and are being scored by the FQMD Executive Committee, adding that interviews will be scheduled over the next few weeks. She noted that she is hoping to have updates by the May 27th Board meeting regarding new legal counsel.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT – The Public Comment Policy can be found at <https://www.fgmd.org/publiccomment-policy>. Written public comment may be submitted electronically via email to publiccomments@fgmd.org. *No written public comment was received.*
- IV. DISCUSSION – UNHOUSED SERVICES SUPPORT: CITY’S STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVE PLAN, Presented by Taylor Diles – Mr. Diles, Director of the Office of Homeless Services & Strategies, thanked the Commissioners for inviting him to present the City’s revised proposal to address homelessness in the French Quarter, which aims to continue the “Home for Good” program launched in summer 2025 and stays within the previously approved budget. He stated that the program would fund three outreach workers providing extensive weekly street coverage, each paired with a dedicated NOPD officer. Outreach workers would offer unhoused individuals shelter placements, while officers would enforce movement if services are declined. The approach focuses on reducing the visible footprint of homelessness in the French Quarter and

shifts funding to facilitating Low Barrier Shelter exits. Mr. Diles stated that the proposal guarantees 27 shelter transports as a baseline, with the potential for more exits, and is intended as a pilot that could scale citywide by 2027. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the effort but also voiced frustration over years of significant spending with limited results. Concerns were raised about whether the administration would take a firm public stance against street sleeping in the French Quarter and whether the City attorney would prosecute related violations. Discussion focused heavily on accountability measures, including improving Key Performance Indices (KPIs) to track unique engagements, shelter conversions, and long-term housing outcomes, as well as strengthening coordination among homeless services agencies such as Unity, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, and City outreach teams like the Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans. It was noted that the KPIs will be tightened, and Ms. Gasperecz will introduce Mr. Diles to the new Unity staff. The \$308,000.00 being requested is within the budget for the 12 month period. Mr. Ferguson stated that the new administration expressed strong support for this initiative, and noted ongoing efforts to secure a new Low Barrier Shelter location and additional funding. Mr. Diles stated that the target launch date for the pilot is July 2026, pending council approval and staffing.

V. MOTIONS –

- a. CONSIDER A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2026 MEETING MINUTES – Mr. Fein motioned (**M1**) to “approve the March 30th, 2026 Board meeting minutes...”, Mr. G. Bilby seconded the motion, and it was approved. Ms. Raines abstained due to her absence.
- b. PRESENT AND CONSIDER A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2026 TREASURER’S REPORTS – Treasurer Mr. Fein presented a revised format for the monthly Treasurer’s Reports, noting that the format had been reviewed with the Finance & Development Committee last week. Appreciation was expressed to staff and the FQMD’s accounting consultant for their work on the revisions. Staff provided an update on recent revenue activity, including receipt of approximately \$1.5 million in State appropriations and additional funds from the City. Board members engaged in discussion regarding the structure and presentation of the financial reports.

Key themes included:

- The distinction between FQMD operating funds and French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) funds, and the need for clearer separation between the two.
- Concerns that combining FQEDD and FQMD financial information may create confusion regarding organizational control, oversight responsibility, and public interpretation.
- Requests for a report format that more clearly reflects the FQMD operating budget, including revenues and expenditures directly under the Board’s authority.
- Clarification on fund balances, account structures, and visibility into financial position.
- Discussion regarding the inclusion of supporting financial details, such as assets and liabilities, and alignment with standard financial reporting formats (e.g., profit and loss statements).

It was noted that the Board has an interest in monitoring FQEDD-related funding; however, members discussed whether such reporting should be presented separately from FQMD financial statements. Discussion also included the role of the organization’s accounting consultant, Mr. Foard, with requests for him to attend a future Finance & Development Committee meeting to provide additional clarification on financial reporting. Ms. Bondio noted that the revised format is part of an ongoing effort to improve financial reporting and remains open to further refinement. Commissioners discussed the process by which report format changes are introduced and reviewed, including the role of the Finance & Development Committee and opportunities for broader Board input. Board members expressed preference that the Treasurer’s Report align with standard audit reporting practices; Ms. Courseault noted that the Treasurer’s report will include a Budget-to-Actual Profit and Loss statement, presented together with an Executive Financial Summary.

Follow-Up Requests: Further refinement of the financial report format to a) Clearly distinguish between FQMD and FQEDD funds b) Emphasize FQMD operating financials c) Inclusion of Mr. Foard in a future Finance & Development Committee meeting for additional review and discussion.

Ms. Raines made a motion (**M2**) to “keep the French Quarter Management District financials completely separate from any other programs, and to keep the report aligned with standard audit reporting practices...”, seconded by Mr. Pendleton, and it was approved.

Following discussion, the motion to approve the March 2026 Treasurer’s Reports was deferred.

- c. CONSIDER A MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A 2026 FRENCH QUARTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ALTERNATIVE UNHOUSED SUPPORT PROPOSAL – Mr. Caputo motioned (**M3**) to “approve the 2026 French Quarter Economic Development District Alternative Unhoused Support Proposal...”, seconded by Mr. Pendleton, and it was approved. ANNEX I.
- d. CONSIDER A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT IN 2026 OF ANY UNPAID 2025 FRENCH QUARTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT BUDGET EXPENSES – Ms. Bondio reported that FQEDD funds approved in 2025 but spent in 2026 require a formal motion to reallocate them to the same budget line item for 2026, per guidance from the City’s budget office. Ms. Courseault noted this process is recommended annually for unused funds and clarified that some expenses, such as the economic impact study, began in 2025 but were billed in 2026. Commissioners raised concerns about the FQMD fronting costs for projects intended to be funded through the FQEDD, emphasizing that reimbursements and responsibilities under the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement need to be clarified, especially under the City’s new administration. Ms. Raines requested a detailed accounting of all FQMD 2025 expenditures expected to be reimbursed by the City for auditing purposes. Ms. Courseault agreed to provide an itemized list, including expenses related to the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP), the drill purchased for the installation of new street signage, SPPP vehicle maintenance, and the economic impact study.

No motion was made by the Commissioners at this time.

- e. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE’S 2026 WORK PLAN – Mr. Pendleton made a motion (**M4**) to “approve the Security & Enforcement Committee’s 2026 Work Plan...”, seconded by Mr. G. Bilby, and it was approved. ANNEX II.

VI. FRENCH QUARTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AGREEMENT MONITORS MEETING REPORT – Ms. Bondio

Ms. Bondio reported that the main topic of discussion during the April FQEDD Agreement Monitors meeting was the NOPD’s drone proposal, where Cpt. Palumbo addressed any questions or concerns that the City representatives had before the proposal moved forward for an official vote at City Council on April 16th. Ms. Bondio reported that the motion passed, with four council members who voted in support and three who voted against.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Courseault requested that, in the interest of time, the Commissioners read the Executive Director’s report on their own time, and provide any feedback or questions to her.

VIII. FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT – Ms. Bondio

Ms. Bondio reported that the Finance & Development Committee met last week and reviewed the financial report that was discussed today. She noted that FQMD Program Manager Mr. Bejarano is continuing to

work on project reporting and has been staying within his allotted 24 hours of work per week.

IX. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT – Mr. G. Bilby

Mr. G. Bilby reported that the results of the French Quarter economic impact study have been received. He reviewed the study’s summary with the group and asked the Commissioners to review the document and provide any feedback or questions to him and Ms. Courseault. He noted that the French Quarter contributes nearly \$80 million to the City, and when combined with other downtown tourist zip codes, generates approximately \$145 billion. The study will be circulated to the Commissioners and used to demonstrate the district’s economic value to the City and State in hopes of securing future funding opportunities. Mr. G. Bilby also emphasized that property tax revenue was not included in the report despite being a significant factor, and said the goal is to develop a clear funding “ask” tied to the district’s economic impact. Vice-Chair Ms. Gasperecz suggested partnering with local universities to help share and promote the study results. Mr. G. Bilby also discussed House Bill 483, which would formalize the Faubourg Marigny Improvement District and allow for up to a 2% tax, potentially helping address issues created by House Bill 365 when Frenchmen Street was added to the district without a funding mechanism.

X. LIVABILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT – Ms. Gasperecz

Ms. Gasperecz shared that a Commissioner had expressed concern regarding her simultaneous service as a board member and on the Board of Unity. In response, Ms. Gasperecz requested and received a ruling from the Louisiana Board of Ethics confirming that, because she is appointed and unpaid, she may serve on both boards. She clarified that she does not serve on the Continuum of Care Governance Council, which administers federal funding for unhoused services, and emphasized her desire to ensure that the FQMD remains in good standing organizationally. Ms. Gasperecz also noted ongoing discussions about consolidating unhoused-related matters under a single Committee moving forward, with the agreement for the project to move to the Security & Enforcement Committee. She noted that she will serve as Board Commissioner liaison alongside Livability Committee Vice-Chair Ms. Holmes, while Mr. Pendleton will attend Livability Committee meetings quarterly and Ms. Gasperecz and/or Ms. Holmes will attend the Security & Enforcement Committee’s meetings.

XI. SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT – Mr. Pendleton

Mr. Pendleton reported that the Committee finalized their 2026 Work Plan at the latest Committee meeting. He added that Louisiana State Police were in attendance to discuss their French Quarter patrols with the group and reported that they have captured eight violent, wanted felons. It was also noted that most of the violence is committed by the unhoused.

XII. NEW BUSINESS: To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Pendleton expressed concern regarding the number of non-French Quarter businesses who took part in this year’s French Quarter Fest, pointing out that the festival was originally created to benefit French Quarter businesses. He recommended the FQMD consider speaking with French Quarter Fest about this concern.

XIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: 27 May 2026 at the Historic New Orleans Collection

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pendleton motioned (**M5**) to “adjourn the April 27th, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting...”, Mr. G. Bilby seconded the motion to unanimous approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary

ANNEX I –City’s Alternative Unhoused Support Proposal

ANNEX II – Security & Enforcement Committee 2026 Work Plan



OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES AND STRATEGIES

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

HELENA MORENO
MAYOR

TAYLOR DILES
DIRECTOR

4/1/2026

TO: Michelle Courseault, Executive Director, FQMD
FROM: Taylor Diles, Director, New Orleans Office of Homeless Services & Strategies (OHSS)
RE: French Quarter Closure Maintenance

Background

In the summer of 2025, OHSS piloted a process for enforcing no sleeping in the French Quarter. Collaboration between OHSS staff, NOPD, the supplemental NOPD French Quarter patrol, the French Market Corporation (FMC), the Downtown Development District (DDD), Audubon Nature Institute, and the Low Barrier Shelter (LBS) allowed for consistent engagement of those sleeping in the Quarter to offer available shelter beds with a potential for a rapid shelter exit. Despite initial success in maintaining the French Quarter with supportive shelter exits, available resources dwindled and the conditions in the Quarter have largely returned to status quo.

Need

The French Quarter Management District, along with NOPD leadership, and OHSS identified the following needs to fill gaps in the program model:

- Dedicated outreach staff with detailed knowledge of available resources for unhoused residents
- Regular, consistent options for transportation to shelter
- Available beds at LBS to offer to clients
- Dedicated security staff to maintain consistency in enforcement and provide coverage during special events

Proposal

Staffing

To pilot an improved closure maintenance process, FQMD will fund three dedicated, interdisciplinary teams of one outreach staff and one security staff to patrol the Quarter 16 hours a day, 7 days a week (22 hours of coverage on Saturdays). OHSS would be responsible for hiring appropriate outreach staff, training all team members, and providing project management support. Based on project results, the number of teams, necessary team members, and assigned shifts may be adjusted (as funding allows). Below is an example schedule the three teams could utilize, providing the most coverage on Saturdays.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4:00am - 12:00pm	Team 1	Team 1	Team 3	Team 3	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1
11:00am - 7:00pm	-	-	-	-	-	-	Team 2
6:00pm - 2:00am	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3





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Shelter Exits

Availability at LBS requires current residents to exit shelter. LBS will dedicate 5 beds for the French Quarter work and FQMD will fund 60 shelter exits for the year. This means each bed is expected to transition 12 people out of the shelter in the year at an average pace of one person per month. The average rental support will be a security deposit and up to three months at Fair Market Rent (\$1113 for a 1-bedroom unit; established by HUD). Additionally, FQMD will fund move-in support packages to promote a successful transition out of shelter.

- Average Rent: \$1,113
- Exit Support: up to 3 months
- Total Beds: 3
- Exits per Bed: 9
- Total Clients Served: 27
- Total Shelter Exit Cost (\$1113 x 4 x 27): \$120,204
- Move-In Package: \$1,731

Transportation

In 2025, the Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit (MCIU) was the dedicated transportation outside of normal business hours. This was both outside the scope of MCIU’s mission and led to long wait times for transport while they were responding to another call. Moving forward, the team will be assigned a City vehicle to provide transportation immediately after shelter is accepted.

Total Funding Request

Item	Cost	Units	Annual Cost
Outreach FTE	\$43,821	3	\$131,463
Shelter Exits	\$6,183	27	\$166,941
Supplies	\$5,000	1	\$5,000
Coordination	\$5,000	1	\$5,000
TOTAL			\$308,404

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Goal	Target Date	Reported
Engagements	50% decrease	December 2026	Weekly
Transports to Shelter	27 total	December 2026	Weekly
Shelter Exits	27 total	December 2026	Monthly

OHSS will record the following metrics:

1. Engagements – during their shift, how many times did the team stop to engage someone who was sleeping in the French Quarter? This is *inclusive* of repeat stops (e.g., stopping to speak to the someone who relocated elsewhere in the French Quarter). Teams will record this data daily, and OHSS will provide FQMD with a compiled weekly report.





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Engagement Goal: 50% decrease from peak weekly average engagements by the end of December 2026.

2. Engagement Outcomes – when the team stopped to engage someone, what was the result? Outcomes include: left area, transported to shelter, and citation. Teams will record this data daily, and OHSS will provide FQMD with a compiled weekly report.

Outcome Goal: 27 transports to shelter by the end of December 2026.

3. Shelter exits – how many people have exited shelter and entered housing? OHSS and LBS leadership will track this data and report to FQMD monthly.

Exit Goal: 27 shelter exits by the end of December 2026.



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Monitor KPIs of Budgeted Items

- FQ Patrols:
 - NOPD (see attached)
 - Sherriff (see attached)
 - LSP (see attached)
 - Transport Van

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Public Concerns / Strategic Priorities

- Identify top priority list of community safety concerns (for example- mental health / unhoused, noise, aggressive solicitation, speeding, illegal parking).
- Recommend to Government Affairs Committee, 1-2, needing advocacy for ordinance changes.
- Develop & research project concepts to address top 1-2 issues and funding proposals for the late Spring funding cycle for 2027.

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- FQ Patrols:
 - **NOPD** (changes)
 - App Response Time: 7 mins
 - Citizen Contacts 1400
 - Business Checks 800
 - Added: Parking Citations
 - Added: Shifts Filled GOAL → 82%
 - Added: # Transport Requests
 - Added: # MCIU Referrals
 - Added: # LEAD Referrals
 - Miles removed, replaced with Hours
 - **Upper Quarter Patrol**
 - Added: # Transport Requests
 - **LSP**
 - # of Apprehensions (Wanted Felons)
 - # Hours Worked
 - # Vehicles Towed
 - **Transport Van** - # transports