French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, 9 September, 2026, 2:00 PM

Bienville House, 320 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Guest Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS				Approve previous meeting notes	Approve distribution of 2025-26 State appropriations report
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent		
Glade	Bilby	X		Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton		X	-	-
David	Bilbe	X		Yes	Yes
Joey	DiFatta	X		Yes	Yes
Daniel	Hammer		X	-	-
Steve	Caputo	X		Yes	Yes
KC	Guidry	X		Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

GUESTS		
First	Last	Role
Michelle	Courseault	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Lorrie	Adair	FQMD Program Manager
Sophie	Kasakove	Times Picayune
Jason	Ginty	FQ Business Owner

2. Approve the previous meeting notes: July 2026

Joey DiFatta made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes. Steve Caputo seconded the motion, and it was approved.

3. Public Comment – No written public comments were received.

4. New Business

   a. Economic Impact Study

Executive Director Michelle Courseault reviewed the draft "Economic Impact Study at a Glance," with the Committee. Members recommended clarifying data sources and geographic scope, emphasizing key economic and employment statistics, revising maps, and adding COVID-19 context. Staff will make revisions before presenting the study to the full Board. See attached document.

   b. Motion to approve of the 2025-26 State Appropriations Report, as presented, for distribution

The Committee reviewed the final 2025-26 State appropriations report. See attached report.

Mr. DiFatta made a motion to approve the 2025-26 State appropriations report, as presented, for distribution. David Bilbe seconded the motion, and it was approved.

5. Informational Updates

   a. State Resolution 136 -See attached document.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Caputo made a motion to adjourn. KC Guidry seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

The next scheduled meeting date of the Committee is ***Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, at 2 PM.***

The French Quarter Management District is a state political subdivision created by the Louisiana Legislature as a means for the residential and business communities to work together to protect, preserve and maintain the world famous French Quarter as a safe, clean, vibrant and friendly neighborhood for residents, businesses, and visitors.



Economic Impact Study At a Glance

To understand the French Quarter's role in the New Orleans economy, the French Quarter Management District commissioned an Economic Impact Study. The findings demonstrate its significance: the French Quarter powers Louisiana's tourism economy; is one of New Orleans' greatest economic assets; remains a neighborhood first; contributes far beyond its size; and proactive investment matters.

This At a Glance highlights key findings from the 2026 study and the full publication, The French Quarter and the New Orleans Economy.

New Orleans' signature events bring extraordinary economic impact to our city.

Richardson highlights the power of these annual events that drive visitation, generate millions in economic activity, support thousands of jobs, and fuel public revenue.

SUGAR BOWL

$20M

state + local taxes

The 2024 Sugar Bowl generated an estimated $20 million in state and local taxes.

JAZZ FEST

$400M

economic impact

The 2024 Jazz & Heritage Festival had an estimated $400 million impact on the New Orleans economy.

FRENCH QUARTER FESTIVAL

~$320M

economic impact

French Quarter Festival attracts close to one million attendees over four days and generates an economic impact of approximately $320 million.

ESSENCE FESTIVAL OF CULTURE

$50M

federal + state + local taxes

2,600+ JOBS

The 2024 Essence Festival of Culture supported more than 2,600 jobs and contributed almost $50 million in federal, state and local taxes.

FRENCH QUARTER TAXABLE SALES BASE

$1.6 BILLION

THE FRENCH QUARTER DRIVES NEW ORLEANS' HOTEL TAX REVENUE

From 2022 through 2024, New Orleans averaged approximately **$51 million** annually in hotel taxes.

ANNUAL AVERAGE HOTEL TAX REVENUE
$51 MILLION
(2022–2024)

Over that same period, the Downtown ZIP codes—including the French Quarter—accounted for approximately

82% OF THE CITY'S TAXABLE HOTEL REVENUES
DOWNTOWN ZIP CODES (INCLUDING THE FRENCH QUARTER)



2022–2024 3-YEAR TOTAL

CITYWIDE TOTAL
$1.027 BILLION

DOWNTOWN ZIP CODES (INCLUDING THE FRENCH QUARTER)
$840.65 MILLION

NON-DOWNTOWN ZIP CODES
$186.35 MILLION

* $840.65 million of the $1.027 billion citywide total.

A Neighborhood First

The French Quarter : Small in Size – Extraordinary in Impact.

1 HOW PHYSICALLY SMALL IS IT?

0.3%
OF NEW ORLEANS LAND AREA



The French Quarter occupies just **less than one-third of one percent** of the city's land area.

2 THE FOOTPRINT

Rampart to the river.
Canal to Esplanade.

16 BLOCKS WIDE
7 BLOCKS ACROSS
A neighborhood you can cross on foot in about 20 minutes.



3 WHAT FITS INSIDE THIS TINY FOOTPRINT?

115 RESTAURANTS	39 HOTELS	77 BARS, CLUBS + DAIQUIRI BUSINESSES	346 MERCHANTS
31 OFFICES + SERVICES	28 CHURCHES + MUSEUMS	11 CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATIONS	99 LANDLORDS

Commerce, hospitality, culture and residential life—occupying the same remarkably small geography.

4 A SMALL SHARE OF THE POPULATION

0.77%
OF NEW ORLEANS POPULATION

Just 2,893 residents call the French Quarter home.

5 YET A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR CITY

14% OF ORLEANS PARISH LOCAL SALES TAX COLLECTIONS

6 A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF TAXES

$40.7M
IN PROPERTY TAXES GENERATED IN 2026

$79.8M
IN LOCAL SALES TAX GENERATED IN THE FRENCH QUARTER

Source: The French Quarter and the New Orleans Economy: Dr. James A. Richardson, 2026. See full publication for sources, methodology and applicable limitations.

Contribution Far Exceeds Its Size

EXTRAORDINARY PLACES REQUIRE INTENTIONAL STEWARDSHIP

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

SHARED VISION. SHARED PRIORITIES.

PROACTIVE INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCE

Protect and build on what we have—for residents and visitors.

INCREASE VISITOR VALUE

Stay longer.
SPEND $25 MORE
per visitor.

GROW ECONOMIC RETURN

$356M
in additional economic return based on 14M visitors.

REINVEST

Fund the next proactive investment.

A CYCLE OF VALUE + RETURN

Invest today.
Strengthen the Quarter.
Build a stronger New Orleans.



The numbers tell us what the French Quarter contributes. They also underscore what is at stake. An economic, cultural and residential asset of this significance requires intentional stewardship—protecting what makes the French Quarter extraordinary while strengthening its future for the people who live, work and visit here. In 2026, the Louisiana Legislature also called for examination of the "responsible and sustainable stewardship" of the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts through Senate Resolution 136.

Read the full publication: The French Quarter and the New Orleans Economy.

Source: The French Quarter and the New Orleans Economy, Dr. James A. Richardson, 2026. See full publication for sources, methodology and applicable limitations.

The French Quarter Management District is the state-created public body charged with helping protect, preserve and strengthen the French Quarter.

WHY FQMD EXISTS

Our statutory purpose • La. R.S. 25:799

SEVEN PILLARS. ONE SHARED MISSION.

1 PUBLIC SAFETY

Keeping our neighborhood safe and secure.

2 QUALITY OF LIFE

Supporting a high quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors.

3 INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC REALM

Investing in and maintaining our streets, facilities and public spaces.

4 MOBILITY & ACCESS

Making it easier and safer to move through and around the French Quarter.

5 PRESERVATION & CULTURE

Protecting our historic character and celebrating our unique culture.

6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening our economy and supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs.

7 CLEANLINESS & BEAUTIFICATION

Keeping the Quarter clean, beautiful and welcoming.

KEEP THE QUARTER SAFE.

- NOPD SPPP Patrols
- LA State Police Patrols
- OPSO Patrols
- Arrest Transport Unit
- FQ Task Force App
- Remove - Lock - Take

KEEP THE QUARTER CLEAN.

- Year Round Recycling Drop Offs
- Graffiti/ Sticker Removal Requests
- Keep LA Beautiful cleanups
- Mardi Gras Bead Recycling

KEEP THE QUARTER MOBILE.

- Public safety street markings
- Rampart street improvements
- Pedestrian / vehicle safety enhancements

KEEP THE QUARTER THRIVING.

- Street lights 2025 project
- Bourbon Street Holiday - Memorial Lights
- FQ Business Stabilization Fund
- Mayor's Quality of Life Task Force
- FQ Coordinating Council



WHY IT MATTERS

Making the French Quarter

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK & VISIT.



FQMD's 13-member Board brings together appointments from organizations representing French Quarter residents, businesses, hospitality, tourism and preservation, together with City government.

French Quarter
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

ABOUT THE STUDY & DATA

The French Quarter Management District commissioned Dr. James A. Richardson to examine the economic significance of the French Quarter to New Orleans and Louisiana. The findings, data, estimates, calculations and economic analysis presented in this summary reflect Dr. Richardson's research, methodology and analysis using the sources identified in the full publication. FQMD has not independently audited or verified the underlying source data or economic methodology. Certain findings may rely on estimates or data covering geographic areas broader than the French Quarter. See the full publication for sources, methodology and applicable limitations.

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

A UNIQUE PLACE.
A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

People. Place. Possibility.

FROM PURPOSE TO STRATEGY

What Role Should FQMD Play?

FQMD's statutory purpose spans seven interconnected areas affecting the French Quarter. Today, FQMD advances that mission through individual programs, projects, investments and partnerships.

The question before us is what comes next.

Building on the Past. Stewarding What's Next.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **OUR ROLE**
   Should FQMD's future role remain primarily the administration of individual programs and projects — or should FQMD play a more intentional role in coordinating stewardship across its statutory mission?

2. **BASELINE + ENHANCED SERVICES**
   What should government provide as baseline municipal service — and where can FQMD add value through enhanced services, coordination and strategic investment?

3. **WHAT IT TAKES**
   What capabilities, relationships, operating structures, agreements, information, performance measures and resources would FQMD need to fulfill that role effectively?

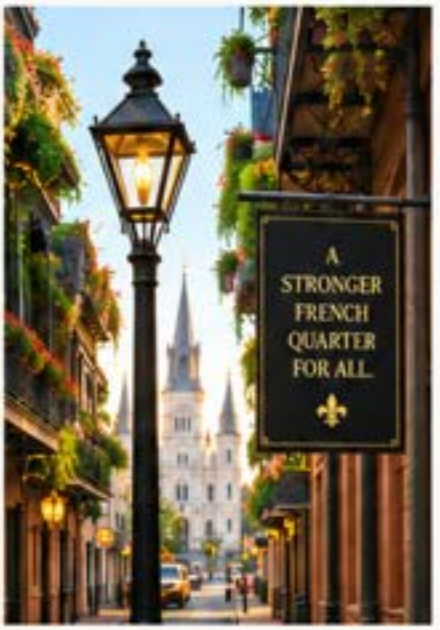
4. **OUR PARTNERS**
   Who are the essential City, State, community and private-sector partners — and how should responsibilities be aligned?

5. **WHAT STANDS IN THE WAY**
   Are there statutory, governance, funding, organizational or operational barriers that would need to be addressed?

A TIMELY CONVERSATION

In 2026, the Louisiana Senate adopted Senate Resolution 136 calling for examination of the "responsible and sustainable stewardship" of the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts — including governance, responsibilities, financing, coordination and the relationship between basic municipal and enhanced services.

These are many of the same questions we are asking for the French Quarter.



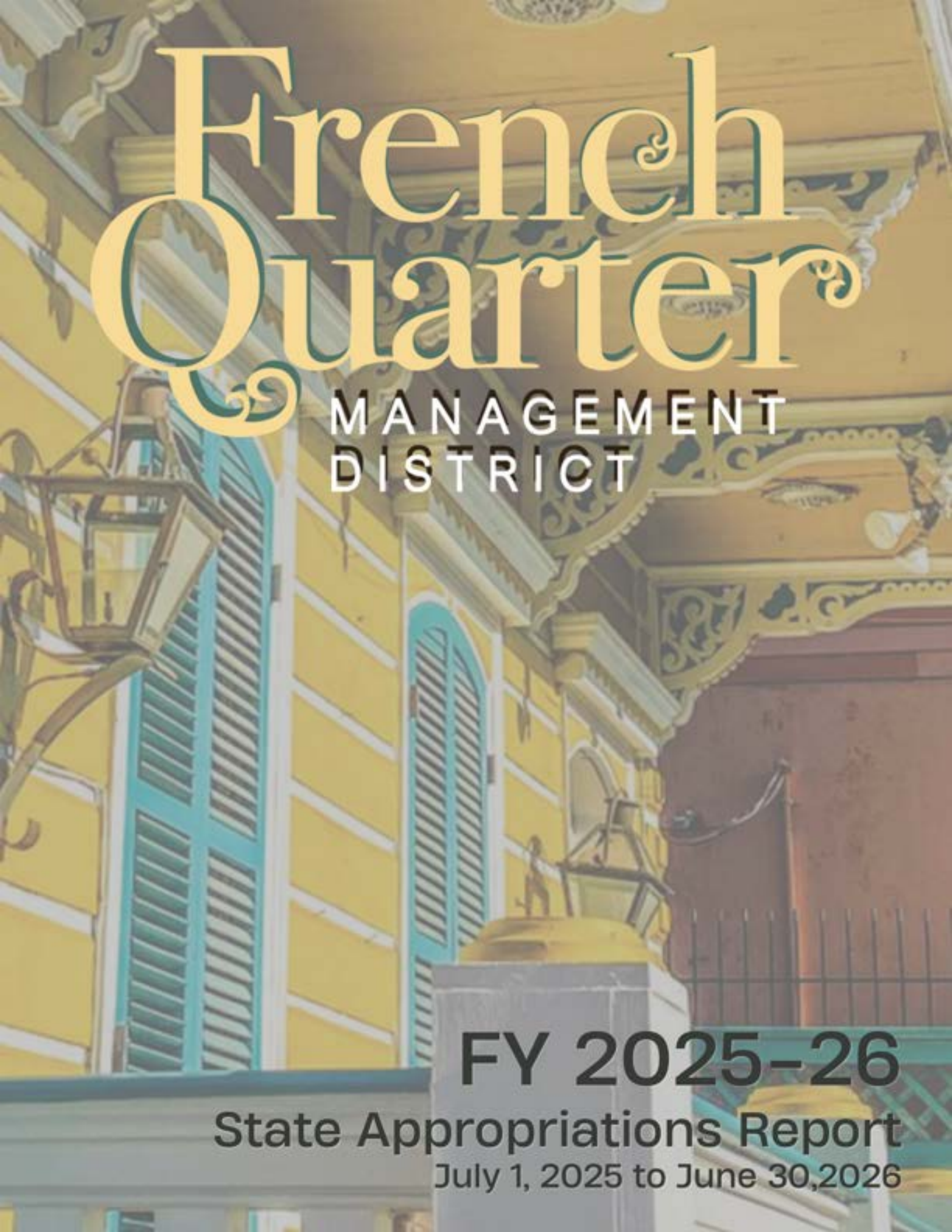
THE QUESTION FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

What direction should the Government Affairs Committee recommend to the FQMD Board for the District's future role in the intentional stewardship of the French Quarter?



SAFE · CLEAN · MOBILE · THRIVING

A Better Place to Live, Work and Visit.



FY 2025-26

State Appropriations Report

July 1, 2025 to June 30,2026

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE
FRENCH QUARTER PATROLS

$700,000 STATE INVESTMENT

State funding provides dedicated, supplemental patrols in the French Quarter—expanding visible law-enforcement presence, responding to calls for service, supporting businesses, coordinating with NOPD, and engaging individuals in need.

These results demonstrate the measurable public-safety impact of Louisiana's continued investment in the French Quarter.

1,904
UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED FOR OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE

39
TOTAL ARRESTS
Removing offenders from our streets.

DEDICATED SUPPLEMENTAL PATROLS

ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO THE FRENCH QUARTER

7
FELONY CHARGES

29
MISDEMEANOR CHARGES

6
VEHICLES TOWED

WHAT YOUR INVESTMENT MADE POSSIBLE

951
CALLS FOR SERVICE / AGENCY ASSISTS
Responding when help is needed most.

697
BUSINESS CHECKS
Proactive engagement and crime deterrence.

157
TRAFFIC STOPS
Enhancing safety and enforcing the law.

28
COORDINATED 8 PM SWEEPS WITH NOPD
Stronger partnerships. Stronger results.

ARREST TRANSPORT UNIT

TRANSPORTS TO BOOKING
67

A separate patrol detail staffed by OPSO deputies transports individuals to booking, allowing supplemental patrol officers to remain on patrol in the French Quarter.

$175,000
STATE INVESTMENT

PEDESTRIAN & VEHICLE SAFETY

IMPROVEMENTS ON RAMPART ST. AND NORTH PETERS ST.

Strategic signage and roadway enhancements increase visibility, reinforce pedestrian right-of-way, and create safer streets for everyone who walks, bikes, and drives.





STOP HERE FOR PEDESTRIANS

State Law signage reminds drivers to stop where pedestrians have the right-of-way.



YIELD FOR PEDESTRIANS

High-visibility warning signs promote awareness and safer speeds near crosswalks.

$150,000
STATE INVESTMENT

FRENCH QUARTER RECYCLING

Keeping our streets and catch basins clean—especially during Mardi Gras.



YEAR-ROUND RECYCLING FOR RESIDENTS

Convenient public recycling drop-off sites make it easy to recycle glass, plastic, aluminum, paper and more—diverting materials from the waste stream all year long.

MARDI GRAS BEAD RECYCLING FOR HOTELS

A dedicated bead and throws recycling program for hotels captures beads and throws before they enter the waste stream and helps keep our catch basins clean during our highest-impact season.

16
PARTICIPATING HOTELS
Across the French Quarter

10,332
POUNDS
of beads and throws recycled

44,154
ESTIMATED INDIVIDUAL BEADS & THROWS
diverted from the landfill

COLLECTED FRONT-OF-HOUSE AND BACK-OF-HOUSE
in guest areas, on every floor, in rooms, common areas and post-event cleanups

$50,000
STATE INVESTMENT

BOURBON STREET LIGHTS

"SECOND LINE IN THE SKY"

A community-led memorial that honors those lost and impacted by the January 1 tragedy.

822
PRAYER FLAGS
Messages of love, remembrance and hope

3
BLOCKS OF BOURBON STREET
100–300 Blocks illuminated



Stretching across three blocks of Bourbon Street, the installation brought together prayer flags, photographs, messages from survivors and families, and illuminated symbols of New Orleans culture—transforming the site of tragedy into a place of remembrance, hope and healing.

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

State Investment at Work

The FQMD Board of Commissioners extends our sincere appreciation to the Louisiana Legislature for its continued investment in the French Quarter. These resources allow FQMD to advance its State-established mission through investments in public safety, quality of life, infrastructure, mobility, economic vitality and the overall stewardship of the French Quarter.

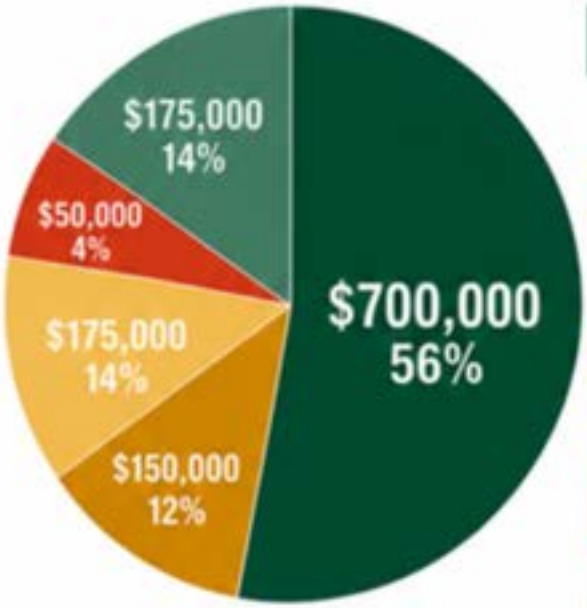
We are grateful for your partnership and shared commitment to protecting and preserving the French Quarter as an irreplaceable cultural and economic asset for Louisiana.

With Gratitude,

Michelle Courseault, Executive Director

FY 2025-26 State Appropriations

HOW $1.25 MILLION WAS INVESTED



SECURITY PATROLS
$700,000 | 56%
Supports supplemental police patrols and provides 24/7 visibility throughout the French Quarter.

KEEP LA BEAUTIFUL RECYCLING
$150,000 | 12%
Funds enhanced recycling services and supports a cleaner, more sustainable French Quarter.

OPERATIONS
$175,000 | 14%
Supports the core operations and administrative functions of FQMD.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
$50,000 | 4%
Invests in initiatives that support business vitality and the local economy.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
$175,000 | 14%
Funds projects that improve pedestrian safety and enhance public safety infrastructure.

TOTAL: $1,250,000

FQMD's 13-member Board is composed of appointments from the following public officials and French Quarter stakeholder organizations:

Mayor of New Orleans (2) | New Orleans City Council – District "C" (1) | Vieux Carré Property Owners, Residents and Associates (VCPORA) (1) | Louisiana Restaurant Association (1) | Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association (2) | French Quarter Business Association (1) | French Quarter Business League (1) | French Quarter Citizens (1) | North Rampart Main Street (1) | New Orleans & Company (1) | Vieux Carré Commission (1)*

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1. **PUBLIC SAFETY** — Keeping our neighborhood safe and secure.
2. **QUALITY OF LIFE** — Supporting a high quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors.
3. **INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC REALM** — Investing in and maintaining our streets, facilities and public spaces.
4. **MOBILITY & ACCESS** — Making it easier and safer to move through and around the French Quarter.
5. **PRESERVATION & CULTURE** — Protecting our historic character and celebrating our unique culture.
6. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** — Strengthening our economy and supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs.
7. **CLEANLINESS & BEAUTIFICATION** — Keeping the Quarter clean, beautiful and welcoming.

This report reflects activities and programs supported by State appropriations during FY 2025-26 and does not include FQMD activities or programs funded through other sources.

SR 136

RIVERFRONT & ADJACENT DISTRICTS STUDY

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE STUDY

QUESTION 1

Who Are the Entities?

Which state, local, and quasi-public entities have authority or responsibilities in the French Quarter, riverfront, and adjacent districts?

QUESTION 2

What Are Their Authorities and Functions?

What are the respective authorities, powers, and functions of these entities?

QUESTION 3

Where Do They Operate?

What are the geographic boundaries and areas of responsibility for each entity, and where do they overlap in the French Quarter, riverfront, and adjacent districts?

QUESTION 4

How Are They Governed and Accountable?

What are the governance structures, boards, and accountability mechanisms for each entity?

QUESTION 5

How Are They Funded?

What are the principal revenue sources and financing mechanisms for each entity, and how are those funds generally used?

QUESTION 6

How Are Responsibilities Coordinated?

How well are responsibilities coordinated among these entities, and are their respective roles clear, particularly for public access, maintenance, infrastructure, capital improvements, redevelopment, economic development, neighborhood impacts, and public safety?

QUESTION 7

Are Basic and Enhanced Services Clearly Defined?

Are basic municipal services and enhanced or supplemental services clearly defined? Which services are the City's responsibility, and where do districts and authorities appropriately supplement or enhance those services?

QUESTION 8

Do Resources Align with Responsibilities?

Do the entities have the authority, resources, and funding necessary to carry out their responsibilities effectively and sustainably?

QUESTION 9

Where Are There Gaps, Duplication, or Opportunities?

Where are there gaps, duplication, or opportunities for better alignment in authority, governance, funding, and service delivery?

QUESTION 10

What, If Anything, Should Change?

What legislative, regulatory, policy, or administrative changes — including agreements, governance structures, financing mechanisms, or other actions — should be considered to improve coordination and support responsible and sustainable stewardship?