

MID-CITY SECURITY DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
The Cannery
3803 Toulouse Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

Board Members Present:

Wendy Laker
David Beran
Alvin Williams
Charley Richard

Guests:

Sgt. Alfred Russell
Larry Jacobi, CPA
Jim Olsen
Sgt. Michael Sam

Bob Rivard - Absent (known)
Phil Costa - Absent
Rick Lorusso - Absent

Meeting Called to Order
Roll Call
Quorum Present

Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2023: Charley Richard made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Al Williams. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report:

Larry Jacobi, CPA, passed out the financial statements, which included the Profit and Loss statements from January through October of this year. Larry discussed the Profit and Loss Budget versus Actual. Payments for police patrols are substantially down from last year at this time, due to lack of police officers. MCSD submitted its budget to the City of New Orleans by September 30th 2022; which was filed timely. Larry stated that if the budget has a 5% variance at the end of the year, either a variance report would have to be filed or an amendment to the budget would have to be made and refiled. Filing an amended budget would eliminate the need for filing a variance report. Larry stated that the amended budget acts like the regular budget.

The budget must be made available for public inspection at least 15 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year; which is January 1st of 2023. So by December 15th, the budget has to be made available for public inspection. Public inspection means that it has to be posted in the Advocate/nola.com; the paper of record for the City of New Orleans. In addition, MCSD has to advertise in the Advocate three separate times, leading up to the public inspection date. Larry stated that he spoke to MCSD's auditor, Paul Pechon, who said that the advertisement should be made on December 5th, December 8th and December 12th. The advertisements state that the budget will be published for public inspection on December 15th.

The budget will be adjusted on December 12th by Larry Jacobi, with the same numbers, and will

not be subject to filing the 5% variance and sent to the board. The budget has to be adjusted as close to the end of the year as possible, in order to have the correct numbers. Both the regular and adjusted budget have to be advertised three separate times and published. The budget has already been approved by the board. Wendy Laker made a motion that the board give Larry Jacobi the authority to submit an amended budget, which will be void of the 5% variance. Charley seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Each present board member viewed the bank statement and initialed as viewed and approved. Invoices approved: City of New Orleans, for the period of 8/28/22 through 9/10/22: \$18,745.90; City of New Orleans, for the period of 9/11/22 through 9/25/22: \$20,274.44; City of New Orleans, for the period of 9/26/22 through 10/8/22: \$20,298.27; City of New Orleans, for the period of 10/9/22 through 10/22/22: \$18,400.80; Michael Jarrett, (IT services) \$544.50; Lawrence Jacobi, CPA, \$750.00; Post Office Box annual renewal: \$166.00; Adams and Reese: \$1,305; Verizon, ACH withdrawal: \$113.96.

Crime Prevention and Statistics Report:

Sgt. Russell first discussed the status of the two newly-purchased vehicles, awaiting installation of equipment from Axon. He also spoke about the patrol times which have become challenging to fill, due to the new 12-hour shifts and lack of police officers. Sgt. Russell went over the Crime Maps from early October to the current time, highlighting where crimes are occurring and which crimes are occurring. Sgt. Russell discussed the violent crime incidents in detail. Vehicle burglaries continue to plague Mid-City. Auto thefts have begun to outpace vehicle burglaries -- particularly Hyundai's and Kia's. Sgt. Russell brought attention to the possibility of vehicles being taken via tow trucks or tow vehicles. Currently -- y-t-d -- there have been 7 homicides in Mid-City. Some of the hot spots, such as Club Pressure, seem to have had less crime lately.

Committee Reports:

MCSO Vehicle Status: David Beran gave an update on the status of the vehicles; with four vehicles in service.

Bylaws & Legislative: Bob Rivard sent all board members an updated version of the bylaws -- working off of the original bylaws and a 2017 draft from the previous board -- due to new legislation, increasing the board by two members and giving CPNA the authority to appoint 3 board members. MCSO's attorney, Marshall Hevron, was sent the updated bylaws to review. David Beran made a motion to accept the bylaws, as updated by Bob Rivard, with the understanding that this matter would be revisited pending any changes made by Marshall Hevron. Charley Richard seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Finance Committee: Wendy reported that over the past four weeks weekly meetings were held by the committee to work on legislation regarding creating a more equitable fee structure, by including multiple family residences over 4 units, up to \$75 each unit, yearly; in addition to categorizing STR's as commercial properties, in addition to tax exempt properties. This could allow MCSO the ability to hire more security, in addition to possibly lowering the fee on single residential parcels. Working on the committee were: Wendy Laker, Jim Olsen, Rick Lorusso, Charley Richard and Bob Rivard. Wendy made a motion to be allowed to engage Rep.

Hilferty -- along with Marshall Hevron -- to present the proposal that the Finance Committee worked on, in order for her to start the process of sponsoring the bill and working on language, towards passage of the bill. Charley Richard seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Outreach Committee: Wendy and Sgt. Russell met with the owners of Bayou Wine Garden, Bayou Beer Garden and Wrong Iron -- upon their request -- to discuss crime issues affecting their businesses, solutions and/or ways in which MCSD can assist, while providing realistic expectations. Employees are encouraged to call the MCSD phone when they're leaving work late at night/early morning, in order to get an escort to their car. Wendy informed the board that she will be meeting with the owners of Melbas the next day, along with Sgt. Russell and Al Williams, in order to inform them of the challenges on Tulane Avenue and how MCSD works with businesses and residents in the district. Wendy also attended the meetings of Lakeview Crime Prevention District, given the similar challenges being faced by both security districts.

Old Business:

Ethics Training: Wendy reminded the board that both the ethics training and sexual harassment prevention training must be completed by the end of the year. There were problems with the sexual harassment prevention training link. Wendy said that she would get the proper link and send the sexual harassment prevention training to the board. Wendy also asked that all certificates be sent to Sudie Joint and/or Larry Jacobi.

Update with contract on Pinnacle: Marshall Hevron reviewed the contract and said that the contract with Pinnacle looked good; but had a couple of minor issues to negotiate. Wendy said that Pinnacle had indicated that it could be up and running by mid-January, depending on when all of the equipment came in. Pinnacle also said that there is a vehicle that MCSD could share with another nearby neighborhood, if another added patrol was needed and could be funded by MCSD.

New Business:

Wendy made a motion to hire Sandra Zitler -- who had worked with MCSD in the past -- to research and produce the assessments of all of the parcels in MCSD and provide the data in an Excel spreadsheet, at a cost of \$25 per hour. Charley Richard seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Wendy informed the board that after numerous attempts to contact board member Phil Costa -- by phone, email, and in person -- to determine if he wanted to remain a board member -- she has gotten no response. Phil has attended one meeting, since being appointed on the board in August of 2022. She said that she would contact CPNA, the neighborhood organization who appointed him, to notify them of his lack of participation.

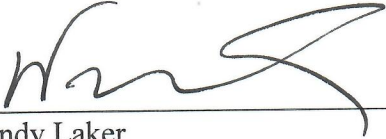
Wendy asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

There being no comments from the public and no further board business, Wendy made a motion to adjourn. Charley Richard seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

CERTIFICATE

As a board member of the Mid-City Security District, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes duly and legally adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mid-City Security District, after due notice, and that said minutes have not been rescinded.

WITNESS my signature, this 15th day of FEBRUARY



Wendy Laker
Chair, acting as Secretary