

MID-CITY SECURITY DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 21, 2022 6:00 p.m.  
The Cannery  
3803 Toulouse Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

Board Members Present:

Wendy Laker  
David Beran  
Alvin Williams  
Richard Lorusso  
Charley Richard - Absent (known)  
Phil Costa - Absent

Guests:

Sgt. Alfred Russell  
Sudie Joint, CPA @ Larry Jacobi  
Michele Johnston, Stirling Properties  
Bob Rivard, MCNO  
Omar Awad, Security Engineers  
Mary Davenport, Security Engineers  
Brent Weinstein, Pinnacle Security  
Chad Perez, Pinnacle Security  
David Myers, Pinnacle Security  
Scott Monistere, Pinnacle Security

Meeting Called to Order  
Roll Call  
Quorum Present

**Approval of Minutes from August, 17, 2022:**

Al Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by David Beran.  
**Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

Sudie Joint, CPA, passed out the financial statements, which included the Profit and Loss statements from January through August of this year and January through August of last year and the net change. Sudie discussed the Profit and Loss Budget versus Actual. \$914,605.73 was collected in revenue. Collections are down a little, but within variances, and heading in the right direction. Patrols are down significantly from last year, which is why the payout to the City for patrols is down as well. MCSD has a net income of \$371,531.04. The City of New Orleans is paid through August 15, 2022, so MCSD is current with the City. Sudie discussed the Profit & Loss Budget versus Actual. Sudie asked the board if anyone had any changes to the Budget before it was approved. The Budget has to be turned into the City by September 30, 2022. No changes were made. Wendy Laker made a motion to accept the budget, as presented by Sudie Joint. The motion was seconded by Rick Lorusso. **Motion passed.**

Invoices to be approved: City of New Orleans \$23,972.04, for the period of July 17, 2022 to July 30, 2022; City of New Orleans, \$22,061.03, for the period of July 31, 2022 to August 13, 2022; Marks Mid-City Service Station, \$4,154.78, two invoices for car repairs; Adams & Reese, \$472.50, July & August billing; Lawrence Jacobi, \$750.00, for August billing; Verizon, automatic draft on August 12, 2022 for \$114.24; Verizon, automatic draft on September 12,

2022 for \$114.50. Wendy made a motion to approve invoices for signature. The motion was seconded by Rick Lorusso. **Motion passed.**

### **Crime Prevention and Statistics Report:**

Sgt. Russell presented crime maps from August and September and went into detail regarding the crimes, particularly violent crimes. Sgt. Russell made note of a white Dodge Charger involved in several car burglaries in the 401 block of N Carrollton Ave. in the daytime. A unit saw the Dodge Charger and attempted to stop it, but due to the consent degree, the unit could not further pursue it. Guest, Michele Johnston, confirmed the incident and indicated that another rash of car burglaries occurred one day since that incident.

Sgt. Russell noticed that since Club Pressure has reopened, there has not been a big uptick in crime in the immediate area. Sgt. Russell attributed this to Club Pressure procuring armed security, although he's not certain if that's the reason for the lack of uptick in crime. Wendy told the board that she and Sgt. Russell went to the MCNO meeting with color crime maps, showing the impact Club Pressure has had on crime in the neighborhood when they're open and operating. Both she and Sgt. Russell spoke with Councilmember Lesli Harris about Club Pressure and the rampant crime in the Tulane corridor. She indicated that she is very aware of the issues and is working towards improving it. She also indicated as much when she spoke to the public at the meeting. Councilmember Harris extended an invitation to meet with her about this issue.

Sgt. Russell also notified the board that the 12-hour shifts with NOPD would most likely be permanent. The manpower situation has not gotten better, but it also has not gotten worse. Sgt. Russell explained how he was managing to keep steady patrols, in particular, by calling officers to fill the spots and being proactive. Bob Rivard asked Sgt. Russell to estimate the hours of the patrols per day. Sgt. Russell gave a rough estimate of 32 - 36 hours per day and 12-16 hours over the weekend.

### **Presentation by Security Engineers:**

Omar Awar gave a presentation on behalf of Security Engineers, laying out what their company can offer to boost MSCD patrols. The board previously received their extensive proposal. Sgt. Russell and the board questioned Omar Awar regarding their services.

### **MCSD Vehicle Committe:**

Sgt. Russell indicated that in order to adequately fill the patrols, there needs to be three operating vehicles at all times. Wendy filled in the other board members about an the accident which occurred on Banks @ S. St. Patrick, when a vehicle ran a stop sign and hit a MCSD vehicle, which resulted in totaling a MCSD vehicle. This accident left MCSD with only two operating vehicles. This then required repairs to be made to a vehicle which was waiting to be repaired at Marks Mid-City Service Station. Now that we currently have three operating vehicles, David indicated that we should be okay, barring something else happening to the remaining operational vehicles.

### **Outreach Committee:**

Wendy and Sgt. Russell attended MCNO meeting, to bring attention to the crime problem in the



Tulane corridor, particularly regarding Club Pressure -- as mentioned in the Crime Prevention and Statistics Report.

The day after the September 21 board meeting, Wendy attended the Lakeview Crime Prevention District meeting. LCPD has the same police retention issue as MCSD, but is moving in the direction of collecting data before it makes moves to hire an outside security company. They have also taken steps to renew the CEA with the City.

**Temporary Appointment of new board member:**

Until CPNA appoints a board member, MCSD is required to appoint a temporary board member. Wendy made a motion to appoint Bob Rivard to fill the temporary board position until CPNA fills the position. The motion was seconded by Rick Lorusso. **Motion passed.**

**Posting on the Board and Commissions website:**

Wendy brought up that a board member needs to take over with posting on the Board and Commissions website for MCSD. She indicated that she would be willing to take on that task.

**Hiring Reserve Officers:**

Wendy indicated that, after reaching out again to the proper authorities in charge of reserve officers, MCSD can utilize reserve officers for patrol purposes.

**MCSD Treasurer position:**

Wendy nominated Rick Lorusso as Treasurer for MCSD and made a motion that he become MCSD's treasurer. The motion was seconded by Al Williams. **Motion passed.**

**Secretary Position:**

Wendy said that she would continue to take the minutes until a secretary can be placed on the board.

**New MCSD Committees:**

Wendy made a motion that the board form a Bylaws and Legislative Committee, which will be a permanent committee. The motion was seconded by Rick Lorusso. **Motion passed.**

Wendy made a motion that a Fiancé committee be formed, which researches and takes inventory of assessments and fees. The committee will be a permanent committee. The motion was seconded by David. **Motion passed.**

**CEA with City:**

Renewing the CEA with the City of New Orleans was tabled.

**Board Ethics Training:**

Wendy indicated that she would send out the link to board members on ethics, sexual harrassment and financial disclosure.

**Website/Email Update:**

Wendy recommended MailChimp as a way to send out emails to the district. Al wants to explore hiring a web company to revamp and reestablish the website. The board will revisit the website.

**Presentation by Pinnacle Security:**

Chad Perez gave a presentation on behalf of Pinnacle Security, laying out what their company can offer to boost MCSD patrols. The board previously received their extensive proposal. Sgt. Russell and the board asked questioned Chad Perez regarding their services.

**Proposed Executive Session:**

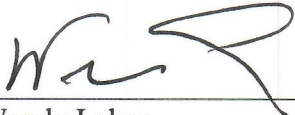
Wendy made a motion to have an Executive Session on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., to discuss the two presentations by Security Engineers and Pinnacle Security, with proper notice, at a location to be determined. The motion was seconded by Rick. **Motion passed.**

Wendy made a motion to adjourn. The motion wa seconded by Rick. **Motion passed.**

CERTIFICATE

As Chair 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 21st day of September

  
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Wendy Laker  
Chair, acting as temporary Secretary