

MID-CITY SECURITY DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Thurgood Marshall School
4621 Canal Street, New Orleans
New Orleans, LA 70119

Board Members Present:

Wendy Laker
Alvin Williams
David Beran
Mary Moises

Guests:

Sgt. Alfred Russell
Officer Charlie Tanner
Larry Jacobi
Bob Rivard
Jackie Galli
Paul Pechon

Meeting Called to Order
Roll Call
Quorum Present

Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2022:

With a couple the minor changes, a motion was made by Wendy Laker for the minutes of May 18, 2022 to be approved. The motion was seconded by Mary Moises. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Larry Jacobi, CPA, passed out the financial statements, from January through May, comparing it to the financial statement from last year at the same time. Police expenses are down by \$138,000 from last year at this time, due to less patrols. Larry explained that the budget is not determined by the month, but by the year. MCSD is where it should be, particularly at this time, in collections. MCSD is below budget from a year ago this month.

New Vehicle Purchases: Larry discussed the purchase of two new cars, which were voted on and passed by the board on April 20, 2022. Larry suggested that an additional car be budgeted in for 2023. Officer Charlie Tenner, the head of the fleet department of the NOPD, was in attendance and explained the process for purchasing vehicles. Officer Tenner stated that two vehicles were ordered and are ready for pickup at Courtesy Automotive, in Lafayette, where the city has a state contract. Officer Tenner also stated that he spoke with Bruce at Crescent Decal and that the vehicles are ready to be dropped off, and go through the decal process. He also indicated that after going to a conference in Chicago that he was made aware of better equipment that could be placed in the Ford Explorer. He wants to make sure that MCSD has the same equipment as all other city vehicles. He also mentioned the chronic problems he's been having with the two 2016 Ford Tahoe MCSD vehicles. Officer Tenner indicated that he could have the fleet manager present for the next meeting to address the chronic issues with the two 2016 Ford Tahoe vehicles. Larry inquired if the quote presented to the board was the correct amount for the purchase of the vehicles. Officer Tenner said that it was the correct amount. Larry said that he

would wait to get the correct invoice amount for the new equipment to be outfitted in the new vehicles before writing the check

Audit Report:

Paul Pechon, CPA, handed out the completed audit and thoroughly explained it to the board. He thanked Larry and Mary for their help. Paul said that since MCSD is a quasi-government entity, the reporting in the audit is a little different. The takeaway is the financial statements are fairly stable. The audit indicates that although the intake amount is similar from last year, the patrols have decreased. Last year the average balance of the invoices were approximately \$37,000. This year the balance is approximately \$30,000. Paul indicated that the audit would be sent to the legislative auditor.

Crime Prevention and Statistics Report:

Sgt. Russell indicated that, in addition to the weekly crime stats, he would be sending the list and schedule of the officers working, to Wendy Laker and Al Williams. He indicated that the biggest challenge in filling the schedule is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., due to the new 12-hour shift schedule implemented by NOPD. To fill each individual time requires 4 officers. He would like to have at least two officers working per shift. He indicated that he has maintained an average of 3 officers for the 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The most active times appear to be between 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. These challenges have caused him to be creative, but appears to have it under control at the moment. The newly-formed DCAT unit, under NOPD, has taken away officers who have patrolled for MCSD in the past, requesting that they work overtime in the DCAT Unit, in lieu of working for MCSD.

Vehicle burglaries are still a big problem. 256 vehicle burglaries from year to date. For the month of May, vehicle burglaries were prevalent in the Bienville/Carrollton corridor -- the Winn Dixie/Rouses area -- evening and early-morning hours, in addition to the Shamrock. Sgt. Russell discussed aggravated assaults -- pertaining to road rage incidents -- where verbal arguments and/or hand gestures are provoking the pulling of a gun. 5 incidents have happened in the last two months. Armed robberies/carjackings: 21 y-t-d; simple robbery/carjacking: 7 y-t-d. Sgt. Russell said that the new DCAT Unit is having some success. VICAT: plainclothes officers in unmarked vehicles also getting positive results. VICAT located a vehicle that was carjacked in the Mid-City area. Aggravated batteries/ag assault: total 19, including road rage incidents.

There was a quadruple shooting at Club Pressure. There was discussion about Pressure being a problem in the past, and operating illegally as a strip club. Sgt. Russell said that only City Hall can shut down the business and promised that they would handle it, but have not. Sgt. Russell said he would email Safety and Permits, the agency responsible for dealing with Club Pressure. Wendy asked Sgt. Russell to include the MCSD board on the email, and include Lesli Harris, since it's in her district. Sgt. Russell stated that he's concerned about Club Pressure because of the increase in violence there. Bob Rivard asked to forward the email sent to Lesli Harris to MCNO.

MCSD Vehicle Committee:

David Beran gave a report on the status of the MCSD vehicles. At the end of May, of the 8 cars,

3 cars were in service, 5 were not. Of the 5 cars not in service, 3 were Tahoes and 2 were Explorers; one needs a new transmission; three are overheating and one needs a tune up and a new electrical system on one of the vehicles. The vehicles with the most mileage are in service. Sgt Russell stated that after conversations with Mark's Mid-City -- an independent car repair shop that could work on the MCSD vehicles -- the vehicle in need of a new transmission should be repaired by the car dealership at no cost, because it's their responsibility.

Outreach Committee Report:

Wendy Laker and Al Williams have met with Sgt. Williams on a few occasions during the month at French Truck Coffee, outdoors, in order to be accessible to the public. Wendy went to the MCNO meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022. CPNA did not have a meeting the month of June.

Old Business:

Status on HB 647:

HB 467 passed and was signed on June 10th by the governor. Wendy Laker composed a letter, addressed to MCNO and CPNA, regarding the passage of HB 467 and a blueprint for appointment of future board members. Wendy said she is willing to meet with prospective board members, if requested. **Wendy made a motion to approve the letter to be sent out to CPNA and MCNO. David seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

July and December Board Meeting:

Wendy made a motion that the board not meet for the months of July and December. David seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting notices and training for new oncoming board members:

Wendy discussed the numerous attempts to get the MCSD board meeting on the city calendar, to no avail. Discussion was held regarding training for new board members. Al Williams said he spoke with Valerie Bolden, the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions. She reminded Al of the ethics training that the board is required to complete. She said that she has a document, but it's a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

MCSD P.O. Box:

Mary Moises indicated that due to the fact that she is not a named person on the post office box, she is not able to get any information regarding that. The post office was supposed to put a form in the mailbox, but they did not. Mary then called a supervisor at the main post office and was told the only way to get around this is to bring a letter on MCSD letterhead and provide the contact person that MCSD would like to have be listed in the letter, along with that individual's contact information. The new contact person would have to provide the letter with an ID. The Mid-City post office would then make the transfer. Mary said that she would send the board the email or the information that she has and then proceed from there. Al said he would then take on

that task. MCSD would generate letterhead in order to do that.

Signs for MCSD meetings:

Wendy Laker suggested and requested to get signs made to place in front of the location where board meetings are being held, for more visibility and notification, in addition to public meetings with Sgt. Russell. Wendy provided a quote from Fast Signs, located in Mid-City. **Wendy made a motion for approval to get signs made from Fast Signs for board meetings. Al seconded. Mary abstained. Motion passed.**

Storage Cabines purchase/donation:

Storage cabinets, supplied by Sgt. Russell, will be utilized to store files from MSCD -- as opposed to storing them at a board member's house -- at the First District Substation location. Trip sheets will also be filed in the file cabinets.

Secretary/Treasurer position:

Wendy offered to take the minutes for this month, due to Mary stepping down. Al offered to take minutes in the future as well, until a secretary is voted on and appointed. Wendy also offered to work with the CPA's, as Treasurer, until a new treasurer is voted on and appointed.

Budget:

Wendy said that she put the budget on the agenda, just to make everyone aware that the 2023 budget would be coming up for discussion. Larry indicated that he would have a spread sheet with a suggested 2023 budget, for the August meeting, for discussion. During the September board meeting the budget would have to be approved, in order to be sent to the city by the end of September.

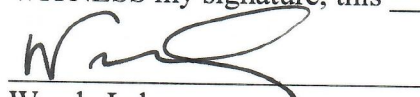
Discussion was held regarding the renewal of the CEA. Bob Rivard metioned that part of the budget could include the lowering of the fees on residents. **Wendy made a motion that all the accounts payable checks for this month be signed. David seconded the motion. Mary abstained. Motion passed.** Each check and amount were called out prior to signature.

Wendy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary seconded the motion. 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, modified or recalled and are in full force and effect.

WITNESS my signature, this 15th day of June, 2022



Wendy Laker
Chair, temporarily acting as Secretary