

Mid City Security District Minutes
Board Meeting of **September 20, 2023**, 6:00 P.M.
3803 Toulouse Street, New Orleans LA “The Cannery”

Chairwoman Wendy Laker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with a roll call of participants which established a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members present: Wendy Laker; Alvin Williams, Jr.; Richard Lorusso; Charley Richard; Robert Rivard; and Darby Shields. The newest member, Brett Emmanuel was not present but was an excused absence.

Presenters: Sgt. Alfred Russell, MCSD/NOPD Full Time Coordinator; Lawrence J. Jacobi, CPA, MCSD accountant; Marshall Hevron, Adams and Reese, LLP serving as legal counsel; Corey Lewis, Sr. of Pinnacle Security.

Guests: Marie Fowler and Ms. Jasmine.

➤ BOARD MINUTES

- W. Laker moved and A. Williams seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2023 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

➤ ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- This item was taken out of order on the agenda due to prior commitments by M. Hevron. General comments were made concerning the new legislation that will be on the ballot on November 18, 2023. These included that the basic change is in how the fee structure is made. Also, it was noted that the legislation, if approved as a ballot measure, will last for 8 years. It was stressed that public funds cannot be used to advocate for the legislation but these funds could be used to include purely factual statements. This was thoroughly discussed and examples were provided. It was also questioned whether outside groups could pay for printing and/or mailing. It was concluded that any written documents should be first submitted to counsel for approval as well as methods of payment.
- The issue of the timing of the budget approval was briefly discussed. It was noted that the local government requirements are that the budget must be approved at least 15 days prior to the calendar year. So, actions at this meeting are to satisfy the New Orleans government which also means we may have to republish in official journals.

➤ FINANCIAL REPORT

- L. Jacobi noted that the city has not sent bills since March so there is an unusually large surplus shown in the financial reports. The surplus will be reduced when the bills are sent and could be quickly reduced even further by vehicle maintenance or replacement issues, pay raises or insurance costs. The fact that MCSD has not been billed by the city is also reflected in the millage figure for 2023.
- The August 2023 Bank Statement was approved and initialed by all Board members.
- L. Jacobi requested Board approval of August monthly bills (\$1,169.00 to Graphix Matter for website and media work; \$107.96 to Capital City Press for publication of MCSD budget; \$23,979.61 to Pinnacle for patrol services for 8/12/23 through 9/9/2023 periods; \$742.50 to Adams & Reese; \$770.00 for CPA Lawrence Jacobi; ACH of \$24,079.02 to First Insurance Funding; and EFT of \$74.62 to Verizon. Additionally, MCSD would stop payment on the check written in June to Adams and Reese for \$1,673.64 since it had been lost and never cashed. The check will be re-written next month. All payments were approved with a motion by W. Laker which was seconded by R. Lorusso and approved unanimously.

- L. Jacobi presented the Financial Statements. Discussed were the Profit and Loss for January through August 2023 versus same period 2022; Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2023, versus same period 2022; and Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for January through August 2023.
 - Discussion was held concerning the proposed budget for 2024 which was circulated to the members. The 2024 proposal was compared to the Revenue and Expenses from the 2022 Budget, the 2022 Actual, the 2023 Budget, the YTD 2023 (August 2023), and the Projected Actual 2023. It was noted that while Pinnacle has requested a pay increase for 2024, there is sufficient funding to cover that if it were to be approved. It was questioned whether a line item was needed for social media expenses or whether this would be part of professional fees. W. Laker moved that a line item not to exceed \$10,000 should be added for this purpose. The motion was seconded by R. Rivard and approved unanimously. D. Shields briefly discussed the costs of cameras for the Ulloa street area as well as cameras in general. A written report was circulated that discussed various options. It was noted that a line item of \$20,000 would be sufficient to cover the costs. R. Rivard moved to add a line item to the budget for cameras not to exceed \$20,000. The motion was seconded by D. Shields and approved unanimously. R. Rivard then moved that the 2024 budget, as amended, be approved. The motion was seconded by R. Lorusso and approved unanimously. L. Jacobi noted that he would revise the budget sheet and prepare a resolution for the city.
- CRIME REPORTS
- Korey Lewis with Pinnacle Security provided a PowerPoint presentation of monthly activities as well as a summary of patrol reports.
 - Sgt. Russel provided crime reports for each week since the previous meeting along with details of the significant issues.
 - Discussion followed regarding specifics within the reports.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Vehicle Report. It was noted that two vehicles were out of commission but that one of the vehicles that were out last month had been repaired.
 - Outreach. It was noted that “Night Out Against Crime” would be held on Tuesday, October 17, the night before the MCSD monthly meeting. It was suggested that board members try to attend these to discuss the legislation and the ballot item. It was further noted that a brochure or mailer would be good to have for these meetings. Discussion ensued regarding social media presentation of MCSD data which thus far has been positive.
- ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA
- Returning to this item, a discussion ensued concerning what constituted “education” versus “advocation” regarding the legislation and ballot measure. It was further noted that Mia could help put any brochures or documentation together once legal counsel had approved it.
- OLD BUSINESS
- The letter to Michael Jarrett requesting a refund of monies provided to him but never spent on Mail Chimp and Google Workspace was being prepared and would be sent by certified mail shortly.
 - D. Shields commented further on his research into crime cameras. It was decided that he would provide an additional report at the next meeting that would also include privacy issues.
 - It was noted that there was a need for a committee that would work closely with outreach but that would provide more visibility for MCSD. D. Shields volunteered to lead this work.
 - There was considerable discussion concerning the phone app that had been presented at the previous meeting. There was some concern about the costs of the I-Pads and whether MCSD

should purchase them or whether the app providers should make them available. It was further discussed that MCSD should try to get a 6-month trial period. There being no consensus, this item was tabled until the next meeting while additional information was gathered.

➤ NEW BUSINESS

- It was noted that MCSD should start preparing material for use on social media, mailers, etc. with regard to the upcoming election for the MCSD legislative proposal in an effort to provide education to the public prior to the November 18 ballot. It was also noted that information should be made available on steering wheel locks that were being offered to owners of Kia or Hyundai vehicles. It was decided that after getting estimates on the cost of this educational material, this item would be discussed at the October meeting.
- W. Laker asked for public input. Marie Fowler discussed the situation at the Lindy Boggs former hospital. She noted that there had been a breach of the security fencing but Sgt Russel commented that the breach had been re-secured.
- At 8:30pm, W. Laker offered a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by R. Rivard. There was no opposition.

CERTIFICATE As Secretary 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 18th day of October 2023.



Charley Richard, Secretary