

**Mid City Security District Minutes**  
**Board Meeting of April 17 2025 6 P.M.**  
The Cannery 3803 Toulouse Street, New Orleans LA

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board Members present: Wendy Laker; Alvin Williams, Jr.; Robert Rivard; Darby Shields; Jonathan Fox; Corbett Scott.

Absent was Charley Richard. D. Shields acted as secretary.

Presenters: Sudie Joint, CPA, MCSD accountant  
Paul Pechon, Bourgeois Bennett Auditor  
Marcel Madere, Pinnacle Security  
Sgt Alfred Russell, MCSD/NOPD Full Time Coordinator  
Maria Barrera Vilert, Loyola University

Guests: None present.

➤ **BOARD MINUTES**

- W. Laker moved and D. Shields seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025 board meeting as presented. The motion passed without objection.

➤ **AUDITOR FINANCIAL REPORT**

- Paul Pechon, auditor from Bourgeois Bennett presented the 2024 Financial Report for the Mid City Security District. Mr. Pechon conducted a page-by-page review of the Independent Auditor's Report. The Financial Highlights (page 7) identified that the fund balance at the end of 2024 was \$406,441, a decrease of \$189,034 from 2023. Total expenditures increased in 2024 over 2023 by \$146,905, driven mainly by a \$170,468 increase in patrol and security services costs. The bank balance on December 31, 2024 was \$1,208,240. It was noted that approximately \$275,000 in charges from the city were disputed by the District. The disputed charges are hoped to be resolved in 2025.
- R. Rivard moved and W. Laker seconded the motion to accept the 2024 Annual Financial Report. The motion was unanimously passed.

➤ **ACCOUNTANT FINANCIAL REPORT**

- S. Joint requested Board approval of April monthly bills. All payments were approved with a motion by W. Laker which was seconded by J. Fox and approved unanimously.
- S. Joint presented the Financial Statements and a detailed General Ledger report for March. Presented were the Profit and Loss Sheet and the Balance Sheet for January through March, 2025, compared with the same period in 2024; The checking cash account is \$869,286 and the net income for the period is a positive

\$35,846. Noted in the expenses was a \$7250 charge from the auditors. The disputed millage expense totals \$369,776.

- S. Joint noted that the District received a check from the City for \$614,000 on April 4 that will appear in next month's accounts. The City has billed for police services through February 8.
- Starting in April, Allied Universal has begun sending invoices for patrol services rather than Pinnacle.
- S. Joint noted that the Verizon automated draft was rejected by the bank. The draft problem will be cleared up.
- W. Laker moved and J. Fox seconded the motion to accept the March Financial Report. The motion was unanimously passed.

➤ PINNACLE/ALLIED UNIVERSAL

- Marcel Madere told the board that the Pinnacle staff have been moved to the Allied Universal office and the transition is proceeding.
- Due to problems with their Lighthouse reporting system there were no stats provided at the meeting for March. A report for March will be forthcoming.
- M. Madere announced that there will be a presentation of the Allied Universal Heliaus patrol services reporting system on May 8 at the Austin Steakhouse. D. Shields and J. Fox indicated they would like to attend.

➤ SGT ALFRED RUSSELL CRIME REPORTS

- Sgt Russell provided crime reports for each week from March 20 to April 12. There have been 2 homicides this year and 11 sexual assaults reported. Sgt Russell indicates that some of the sexual assaults will be reclassified, however it is more than double the number reported last year. Armed robberies are up at 5 and 71 shoplifting incidents have been reported. Auto theft is down but auto burglary at 41 is the same as last year.
- The shooting and murder at the Moss Street gas station was an argument between acquaintances who happened to stop at the gas station.
- Sgt Russell will attend the MCNO meeting on May 12 with W. Laker.

➤ MARIA BARRERA VILERT, ASST PROFESSOR, LOYOLA DEPT OF CRIMINOLOGY

- Professor Vilert presented a review of camera use as a crime prevention entitled "Understanding CCTV as a Crime Prevention Tool: Evidence, Effectiveness, and Emerging Challenges"
- The report stated that camera systems with real time monitoring are effective, particularly at preventing auto thefts. However, the impact of cameras preventing violent crime is limited.
- Cameras that were monitored by private security personnel produced a significant reduction in crime.
- Cost effectiveness of cameras is highest in high crime areas
- Professor Vilert said they would continue their study to identify the most effective placement of the cameras.

➤ COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Private Patrol Oversight committee, consisting of Jon Fox and Corbett Scott, had a zoom meeting to learn how to access information from the Pinnacle Lighthouse application. J. Fox reported that accessing the information is difficult and producing a report requires an Excel pivot table. He looks forward to learning how to use Allied Universal's Heliaus system.

➤ OTHER BUSINESS

- The next MCSD board meeting will be on May 15. W. Laker, the board chair, announced that she would not be available for the meeting. It was decided to hold the meeting to keep to the schedule. If there is no quorum of four board members, there will be no motions passed, however meeting minutes will be taken and published.
- No guests were present so there were no public comments.
- W. Laker made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jon Fox. The motion passed.

CERTIFICATE As Acting 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 12th day of May 2025.



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Darby Shields, Acting Secretary