

MID-CITY SECURITY DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 17, 2022 6:00 p.m.  
The Cannery  
3802 Toulouse Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

Board Members Present:

Wendy Laker  
Alvin Williams  
David Beran  
Mary Moises - Absent  
Phil Costa  
Rick LoRusso - Absent

Guests:

Sgt. Alfred Russell  
Larry Jacobi  
Charley Richard

Meeting Called to Order  
Roll Call  
Quorum Present

Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2022:

**A motion was made by Wendy Laker to approve the minutes from June 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Al Williams. Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

Larry Jacobi, CPA, passed out the financial statements from January through July of 2022, comparing it to the financial statement from last year, during the same time period. Collections are slightly down from last year at the same time, but should catch up by the end of the year. MCSD's biggest expense --which are the police patrols -- are down from last year, due to the difficulty in filling all of the patrols, because of the lack of police officers. Everything else is within the variance of what is expected for the year. **Larry also discussed the Profit & Loss Budget versus Actual.**

Larry presented the proposed budget for 2023 and asked the board to take the time before the next meeting to review the budget, in order to agree on the budget as is, or recommend small amendments and/or changes, before the budget is finalized and sent by Larry to the City of New Orleans, before September 30<sup>th</sup>. The budget will not be voted on. This is the standard procedure for going through the budget. The budget must be advertised, to be made available for public inspection 15 days before the end of the fiscal year, which is January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023. This will be posted on the website and advertised in the legal pages of the Advocate. By the end of the year, if we're out of variance of the budget, then we make the amendments and send it to be included in the advertisement.

Larry discussed insurance renewal and coverage for the board and the police who patrol for MCSD. This is a secondary insurance after the City of New Orleans. **Wendy made a motion to renew the insurance, through Gallagher Insurance, which expires on**

**September 24, 2022. David seconded the motion. Motion passed.** As an oversight, Larry later informed the board that the legislative auditors are requiring MCSD to carry a cyber security policy. A basic policy is \$648.00. **As an amendment to the motion passed regarding the insurance, through Gallhager earlier, Wendy made a motion to add a cyber security policy to the insurance, to be in compliance with the Legislative Auditors. David seconded the motion. Motion passed.** Dark 3 is the company providing a cyber security policy.

Larry called out the invoices prepared for signature by the board: City of New Orleans (6/5/22 - 6/18/22) \$20,481.98; City of New Orleans (6/19/22 - 7/2/22) \$23,261.16; City of New Orleans (7/3/22 - 7/16/22) \$19,040.84; Adams & Reese, \$67.50; Larry Jacobi, CPA, (June & July - \$750 per month) \$1,5000, **Wendy made a motion that the checks for the month of August be approved for authorization and signature. Al seconded the motion. Motion passed.** Larry also called out the automatic draft from Verizon (4/21/22-5/2022) \$109.50; (5/21/22 -6/20/22) \$113.94; (6/21/22-7/20/22) \$114.24. He also called out a previously-approved check to Fast Signs for \$251.66

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

Sgt. Russell started off by showing a comparison in crime in the Mid-City from 2020 to 2021 and highlighted the drastic increase in all crimes but shoplifting. Auto burglaries had the biggest increase, by far. Sgt. Russell proceeded to go through the crime maps, highlighting the crimes which took place throughout Mid-City, going into some detail. (All weekly crime maps are posted to our website @ midcitysecuritydistrict.org.) Due to Club Pressure being closed on Tulane Avenue, because of a fire, crime – particularly car burglaries – have almost become nonexistent in the area. Also as it pertains to Club Pressure, Sgt. Russell has contacted Safety and Permits, due to it operating as an illegal strip club. The large majority of vehicle burglaries are concentrated in areas where certain bars and clubs are located.

Sgt. Russell explained to the board his efforts in procuring and retaining officers to work the MCSD details. He also discussed how the new 12-hour shift is affecting procuring and retaining officers to work the details and potentially how long the 12-hour shift would last.

#### **MCSD Vehicle Committe:**

David Beran gave a report on the status of the MCSD vehicles. As of July, 4 cars are in service and 3 cars are out of service. However, one of the vehicles that was listed as in service was actually sideswiped outside of the 1<sup>st</sup> District Station -- which is where the MCSD vehicles are housed. This leaves us with 3 working vehicles. Sgt. Russell informed the board that the vehicle has \$2,500 worth of damage to the car and could be serviced at Mid-City Automotive, (Mark's Mid-City) who has serviced MCSD vehicles in the past, having the vehicles available within a day or days. Although the City is responsible to cover repairs, the wait time to get a vehicle back in service usually take months. Wendy recalled a previous vote in 2021 by the board, wherein the board voted to allow cars to be repaired without board approval at a cap of \$2,500.

David questioned if the vehicle were repaired would there be adequate staffing to use it. Sgt. Russell told the board that the wrecked vehicle is equipped with a CAD system, which is the

computer system utilized by NOPD and greatly aids in their patrols. **David made a motion that if the car that's already at Mid-City Automotive (67) has repairs that are less than \$2,500, and that is the cheapest car which is out -- equipped with CAD -- then we would move forward with the repairs on that vehicle. Wendy seconded the motion. Motion passed.** The cost of the purchased vehicles was more than originally quoted, due to miscommunication between the dealership and NOPD's fleet manager.

**New Board Members:**

CPNA appointed two new board members and still has to appoint a third board member. MCSD's board will vote at the next board meeting to appoint a temporary board member -- which is required in the new legislation -- until CPNA appoints a board member.

**Posting on State Website:**

Due to Mary Moises' departure from the board, a board member will have to take over the duties of posting minutes and updates to the board website. The individual who will be posting will be determined by the next board meeting.

**Hiring for Additional Patrols:**

Due to the ongoing struggles of filling all of the patrols for MCSD -- and after having ongoing, candid conversations with Sgt. Russell about the challenges of filling the spots -- Wendy and Al are recommending to the board that MCSD seek proposals from security companies, in order to hire a company to work with Sgt. Russell, under the MCSD umbrella. This will fill in the gaps and to also handle the bulk of the escorts, freeing up the officers with MCSD to focus more on patrols. Al relayed advice given by MCSD's lawyer, Marshal Hevron, about hiring an outside security company. Marshal informed Al and Wendy that no formal bid was required in the hiring of a security company, that if the board wanted to just select a company, that would be sufficient. He did recommend, however, that we may want to reach out to multiple companies, to make sure that we're getting the best value and most qualified company. Marshall will handle any formal contract with the selected company.

Al handed out a proposed criteria list to the board, which would be given to the companies. David just added that maybe put emphasis on the shifts aren't being filled and need to be filled. Wendy requested that a time line be added in order for the companies to respond. **Al made a motion that the board solicit security companies, for hire, for the purpose of providing patrols to assist MCSD. David seconded the motion. Motion passed. Wendy made a motion that Al and Sgt. Williams vet the companies and select the top two, for presentation at the next board meeting, and that the companies have a two-week time period to respond. David seconded. Motion passed.**

Wendy stated that reserve NOPD officers may also be hired. They don't get paid overtime. They don't get paid through the City, but through the Office of Secondary Employment. The board would have to pay for reserve officers through the Office of Secondary Employment. Reserve officers would use the MCSD vehicles. **Wendy made a motion that if the board is able to use reserve police officers, that we hire them. Al seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**New Committe Proposals:**

At the next board meeting, a Bylaws Committee will be formed, in addition to committee which will inventory and research assessments in the district, for the purpose of future legislation and having proper collection and assessment information.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**Wendy made a motion. Al 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.

WITNESS my signature, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2022



Wendy Laker  
Chair, acting as temporary Secretary