

MID-CITY SECURITY DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m.  
Warren Easton High School  
3019 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, 70119  
First Floor, Cafeteria

Board Members Present:  
Wendy Laker  
David Beran  
Alvin Williams

Guests:  
Sgt. Alfred Russell  
Larry Jacobi  
Bob Rivard

Meeting Called to Order  
Roll Call  
Quorum Present

Due to a death in the family of the Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Moises, the minutes for the March board meeting are not available. **A motion was made by Wendy Laker to defer the approval of the March minutes until the May 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The motion was seconded by David Beran. Motion passed.**

**Crime Prevention and Statistics Report:**

Sgt. Russell offered the board the use of the 1<sup>st</sup> District Substation on Tulane Avenue for future meetings, if needed. Sgt. Russell then discussed crime trends year to date, from January 2022 to the current date of April, 2022, in the district. There have been a total of 4 homicides – which includes the triple homicide during Mardi Gras, in the 2800 block of Conti Street and the homicide/carjacking of Ms. Linda Frickey. There were 9 aggravated assaults/aggravated batteries. There were 15 armed robberies/armed carjackings. There were 6 simple robberies/simple carjackings. There were 36 burglaries – which do not include car burglaries. These burglaries are business and residential burglaries. Those burglaries are mostly concentrated in Zones M and N of the First District. There were 137 vehicle burglaries. Out of the 137 vehicle burglaries, 72 occurred between the businesses of Pressure, Vandal, Shamrock and Wrong Iron. There were 57 shopliftings and thefts – which include package thefts. There were 53 auto thefts. There continues to be a persistent target of Hispanic males regarding armed robberies. There was a road rage incident on Carrollton Ave, classified as a violent crime. Sgt. Russell said that the response time to violent crime is less than two minutes, on average. Guns in vehicles are still an issue. One gun was taken out of a car in MCSD. Sgt. Russell discussed placing more focus and emphasis on truancy and curfew violations.

Al Williams requested that officer activity during shifts be made available and reported in some fashion to the board and Wendy Laker requested a list of the number of escorts being requested and carried out by the officers. Sgt. Russell offered to look at the trip sheets and provide the escort information.

First District Q.O.L. Officer Auber is working with the city permit department and also the State Board of Permits to either get clubs in compliance or get them shut down, in particular, Club Pressure.

**Financial Report:**

Larry Jacobi provided the board two income statements and balance sheets. One is for the year ending of 2021; which is the income statement and balance sheet provided to the auditors in early April and scheduled to meet with the auditors early next week. Auditors are going to do additional required procedures, which usually only comes up every two years; but because of COVID, everyone has to do it. Because of this, the audit will be a little more expensive this year than it has been in the past. Larry doesn't anticipate any problems. The audit will be done by the June meeting, because it's due by June 30; but will probably have it done prior to that time. The goal is a clean audit and that should be achieved.

The financial statement of December 31<sup>st</sup> looks good. On the balance sheet, at the end of the year, there was \$741,000 cash and accounts payable for \$424,000. Of that \$424,000, \$211,000 of it goes back to 2020. There was a time period of April through August, 2020 that there was not proper signed authorization by the NOPD Superintendent . Payment was held back until proper authorization was in place. This was explained to the auditors. The auditors requested that these outstanding bills be paid prior to the end of the audit. All outstanding forms have been signed and circulated to the board. The statement for April of 2022, MCSD has received \$236,000. The city was delayed in sending out property tax bills by a month; which extended the delinquency period by a month. Full collection should be in June. The financials look good.

After Larry Jacobi made his presentation, Wendy Laker asked if there was anything that the board could do to help assist him. Larry said that it would be helpful to have access to the bank statement as soon as possible and that having a key to the post office box would allow him to reconcile the bank statement quicker and process the invoices, for board authorization and signature. **Wendy Laker made a motion to allow Larry Jacobi to have a key to the post office box. David Beran seconded. Motion passed.**

Invoices paid: Adams and Reese, Larry Jacobi, CPA, City of New Orleans (4 invoices)  
Discussion was held regarding how the patrolling officers' time is calculated, regarding overtime pay, as per the MCSD's contract with the City. Larry indicated that MCSD pays the City and the City then pays the officers for the detail, with the City possibly benefitting from MCSD paying time and a half, when it may not be calculated that way with the City. Bob Rivard brought up the fact that the contract with the City has expired and that the trip sheets could offer some much-needed insight. Al Williams, offered to take a deeper dive into the trip sheets/officer activity and report back to the board in the future.

**Officers' Committee Report:**

Wendy Laker reported that she attended the MCNO general membership meeting on Monday, April 18 and would be attending the City Park Neighborhood Assn. meeting on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, to answer questions and give updates pertaining to MCSD. As part of outreach, the creation of a QR code, linking to the MCSD's website is proposed to be posted in businesses

within the district, providing information such as registering for the phone and safety tips, creating a proactive presence. Wendy Laker spoke with the President of the Mid-City Business Assn. -- who is the owner of Pel-Hughes and the Cannery -- and offered to meet with business owners and discussed posting literature in Mid-City businesses. Future discussion with businesses will be held. Wendy Laker asked for a printing budget, if needed. Larry suggested a \$500 budget; but said he would look at the budget for the line item referencing printing. A reserved day for citizens to meet with Sgt. Russell -- one day a month -- was also created. Citizens must first register -- with a limited number of people allowed -- between 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

#### **MCS D Vehicle Committee:**

David Beran reported that as of the 19<sup>th</sup>, MCS D only has 3 operating vehicles in the fleet. The other vehicles are in for service, and some have been in service since February. The cost of a new vehicle is \$37,630, which includes decals, but does not include computers. Larry indicated that computers are about \$2,500. Sgt. Russell indicated that some MCS D vehicles do not currently have computers. Larry explained that the security district pays for the vehicles and then the City owns the vehicles, although the security district will have control over the vehicle and have use of the vehicle. If a MCS D vehicle is out of service, the City has to provide the use of a vehicle to the district. **Wendy Laker made a motion that MCS D use the surplus of 2021 to fund 2 new Ford Explorers in 2022 and include that in the 2022 budget. Al Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

David brought up exploring the possibility of paying for small repairs of newer vehicles, which could be bring vehicles back in operation quicker and avoid the gridlock of waiting on the City. Sgt. Russell mentioned a repair shop which has worked with him and makes small repairs on the vehicles free of charge, but cannot work on more extensive and costly repairs. Sgt. Russell will follow up on maintenance alternatives. **Wendy Laker made a motion to purchase 2 license plate readers for the MCS D vehicles. David Beran seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

#### **Old Business:**

HB 647 passed in the House 99-0. It was adopted and sent to the Senate. It was received in the Senate and read for the first time. It will next be up for a vote in the Senate.

Wendy Laker met with Andreanecia Morris of Housing NOLA on April 20<sup>th</sup> and was able to procure assessment data for Mid-City, to help start the process of assessment review of the district. Housing NOLA is in the process of getting updated data, in order to provide us with the most accurate and updated information. MCS D can contract with Housing NOLA to provide MCS D with constant updated assessment information for the security district.

#### **Election of Officers:**

Wendy Laker nominated Mary Moises for Secretary/Treasurer. David Beran seconded the nomination. Mary Moises is voted in as Secretary/Treasurer.

Al Williams nominated Wendy Laker for Chair. David Beran seconded the nomination.

Wendy Laker is voted in as Chair.

Wendy Laker nominated Al Williams for Vice-Chair. David Beran seconded the nomination.

Al Williams is voted in as Vice-Chair.

**New Business:**

The second MCSD phone -(504)-252-1569 -- will be reinstated

Wendy Laker requested the purchase of two car phone chargers, due to the phones being in use at all times. Because the phones are so old, phone chargers could not be purchased through a traditional store and will have to be purchased online. Larry indicated that his business could purchase the charges on their credit card and then be reimbursed.


Website updates were presented.

**Wendy Laker made a motion to adjourn. David Beran 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2022

  
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Wendy Laker  
Chair