



UNION SQUARE
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

Public Affairs Committee

May 11 – 9:30 -11:00 a.m.

In Person Meeting!

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Erik Murray, Corrina Luebbe, Russell D. Keil Jr., Wes Tyler, Benjamin Durverge, Lakeisha Holmes

Staff and contract service providers: Karin Flood (USBID Executive Director), Lisa Frisch (Director of Marketing and Events)

Guests: David Lewin, Lee Gregory, Captain Chris Canning, Captain Julian Ng, Officer Dustin Tsang

Call to Order and Introductions

Observing a quorum present, Karin Flood called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

1. Public Comment

Karin called for public comment. Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

2. Announcements

- Virtual Annual Fundraiser- Fundraiser was successful, netting \$35,000 for the foundation.

- Reopening Status
San Francisco moved to the Yellow Tier and restrictions continue to be lifted. There is no tier after Yellow. Nearly all the hotels in the district will reopen end of May, early June.

- Economic Recovery Task Force
The ERTF will meet for their fourth meeting May 13, to recap outcomes from the task force report, including the call for events and activations, while Covid-19 restrictions prohibited events from happening until our move to the Orange Tier.

- Cable Car Return
The USBID is continuing to advocate for the return of the Cable Cars. Karin is serving on a working group trying to bring the Cable Cars back earlier than the official date in September.

As she discussed this, several Cable Cars passed on Powell on training runs, as practice runs have ramped up recently.

3. Action to Approve the April 13, 2021 Minutes

Karin directed the committee to the minutes of the last meeting and provided a summary.

Action: The Committee unanimously approved the April 13, 2021 minutes as motioned by Corrina Luebbe and seconded by Russell D. Keil Jr.

4. Other legislative items and updates

- Mayor Breed's extension of Prop H updated- Members should testify in support at Planning Commission
- Upcoming budget hearings
- I-Magnin Building letter of support-Letter of support was sent out regarding redevelopment of the former I. Magnin building at Geary and Stockton
- Looking for a new Union Square BID PAC Chair
After the meeting, Erik Murray agreed to be the Chair and will preside over the next meeting.

5. Guests Captain Chris Canning from SFPD Tenderloin Precinct and Captain Julian Ng and Officer Dustin Tsang from SFPD Central Precinct

Captain Canning and Captain Ng introduced themselves to the committee and provided their background with the SFPD, both Captains are new in their roles in the Union Square area. Top priorities in the districts were discussed; for Tenderloin, disrupting the open air drug market, increasing police presence on commercial corridors, and maintaining consistency with patrols and oversight are the priorities. For Central, addressing criminal behavior and retail theft, order maintenance and issues with skateboarders in Union Square Park, and working to reduce safety issues related to unlicensed vendors on Market Street and the priorities. Captain Ng noted frequent offenders who are widely known in the district.

Discussions took place about law enforcement priorities in the district, including petty crime, car break-ins, and retail theft. A longer discussion revolved around car break-ins and crime prevention strategies, including Park Smart, educating visitors to remove all belongings from their vehicles. Captain Ng mentioned that 35% of car burglaries occur on vehicles with out of state registrations including rental cars. A frequent talking point from some elected officials noting that crime stats are down overall was debunked as it doesn't take into account the much lower levels of people in the city currently because of Covid-19, both residents and visitors. Overall, crime is up if reported on a per capita basis.

6. Adjournment and Next Meeting: June 8, 2021

Karin adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.