



Public Affairs Committee

August 10, 2021 – 9:00 -11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Russell D. Keil Jr., Don Thomas, Wes Tyler, Corinna Luebbe, Terry Lewis, Tim Falvey, and Erik Murray

Staff: Karin Flood (Executive Director), Lisa Frisch (Director of Marketing and Events), Chris Boss (Director of Services), Karen Gagarin (Member Services Supervisor) and Eva Schouten (Volunteer)

Guests: Chesa Boudin (DA), Rachel Marshall (DA's Office), Alex Nocon (DA's Office), and Seth Meisels (DA's Office)

Call to Order and Introductions

Observing a quorum present, Karin Flood called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Introductions were made.

1. Public Comment

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

2. Announcements

- Cable Car return! Free rides for all in August
The Cable Car returned on August 2nd launched with a press conference by Mayor London Breed. The rides will be free throughout August, regular services will start in September from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Reopening status – Masks now required indoors as of 8/2/21
Masks are now required indoors, and vaccinations mandates are taking place at businesses.
- ED Search update
The hiring committee is currently completing zoom interviews with 13 candidates. They will be narrowed down to 2 - 4 for in person interviews.



3. **Action to Approve the July 13, 2021, Minutes**

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

Action: The Committee unanimously approved the July 13, 2021, minutes as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded by Russell D. Keil Jr.

4. **District Attorney Presentation: Chesa Boudin**

Chesa Boudin introduced his team members present in the meeting. Chesa summarized some challenges in prosecuting offenses due to Covid-19 restrictions placed on the court, jails, and law enforcement, including processing arrests and prosecuting cases with law offices closed, no jury trials and only being able to communicate over Zoom. Due to this, there was a backlog of cases.

He summarized the achievements during Covid-19 including his campaign pledge in 2019 to expand services for the victims of crimes. Two dedicated property crimes victims' advocates will be hired in October of this year and there will be additional social workers for victims who experienced violent and traumatizing crimes.

With the reduction of court availability due to Covid-19, the DA's office has prioritized serious and violent person crimes over property crimes. Regarding retail theft, Chesa informed the committee that there are no current DA office policies or directives regarding prosecuting retail theft, charges are being dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Chesa noted that his perception is that in order to seek and win a conviction on a retail theft case, there must be DNA and video evidence he can bring to trial. He also noted that before prosecuting cases, he takes an in-depth look at the financial and social background of the alleged perpetrator. The DA also noted that there are many ongoing investigations taking place at this moment that cannot be shared. Chesa mentioned that the offenders of two recent violent crimes in Union Square are both in custody without bail.

The following questions by the members were addressed:

- Collaborating to increase the Alliance security camera program and the importance of it
- Businesses making arrests while crime takes place to increase prosecutions
- Prop 47
- Creating recommendations for retailers of preventative measures in collaboration with the Alliance and the DA's Office
- The perception of the safety of San Francisco and PR



- Collaborating to share information to the public regarding the processions of the recent violent crimes and actions that are taking place to solve crime in Union Square

5. Other legislative items and updates

- Retail Theft

Governor Newsom signed a legislation to extend the Retail Task Force until 2025. They will work across jurisdictions throughout the State to put cases together regarding organized crime. Karin has also met with the California Retailers Association who collaborates with the Organized Retail Crime Association (ORCA) to further discuss retail theft.

6. Adjournment and Next Meeting: September 14, 2021.

Karin adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.