



## Services & Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 - 9:00am – 10:30am  
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

### MINUTES-DRAFT

#### In attendance

Committee Members: Sgt. Culbert Chu (SFPD), Officer James Gay (SFPD), Joe Garrity (Retired SFPD Ambassador), Marcus Mirt (Recology), Maxine Papadakis (150 Powell HOA), Guillermo Perez (DPW), Michael G. Petricca (Academy of Art University), Roland Tolosa (AVS), Steven Suen (Biscuits and Blues), Don Thomas (Donatello Building), Wes Tyler (Chancellor Hotel).

Staff and contract service providers: Karin Flood (Executive Director), Karl Bijan (Block by Block), Chris Boss (Director of Services), Karen Gagarin (Member Services Supervisor), Joshua Chan (Sr. Project Coordinator), Lisa Frisch (Director of Marketing and Events), Eva Schouten (Volunteer), and Melanie Medina (Intern).

#### 1. Call to order and introductions

Don Thomas, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made. Don shared his appreciation for the Union Square Alliance's newsletter and advised members to sign up.

#### 2. Public Comments

Don Thomas asked for public comment. Hearing none, he moved to the next agenda item.

#### 3. **ACTION: Approve Committee Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2021**

Committee members were directed to the meeting minutes included in their virtual packets.

**Action:** The committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from July 20, 2021, as motioned by Michael G. Petricca and seconded by Marcus Mirt.

#### 4. SFPD Union Square Area Updates & Reports

##### a. Central Station, Sgt. Culbert Chu

Sgt. Culbert Chu shared that crime has significantly increased in comparison to last year and noted that the statistics may be skewed by the shutdown from 2020. Month-over-month data also showed an increase in larceny-theft. Sgt. Chu added that the



presented stats are for the Central Station. Sgt. Chu requested the Alliance to verify and update contact information for all overnight properties in the area.

b. Tenderloin Station, Officer James Gay

Officer James Gay provided an update regarding the crime data for July, August and a year-over-year overview. No additional incidents were highlighted. A discussion took place about cycling certifications for foot beat officers. No updates were provided on illegal vendors at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market.

c. Retired SFPD Ambassador, Joe Garrity

Joe Garrity provided an overview of the Retired SFPD Ambassador program and gave an update on the two additional officers who will be joining their team, including a retired officer who has experience in handling mental health related cases. The Retired SFPD Ambassadors support district members by addressing crimes such as quality-of-life cases, skateboarders, and illegal vendors. They have also been introducing themselves and sharing information about the Alliance's services to new business contacts in the district. Discussion took place regarding the possibility to convene a meeting with the Street Crisis Response Team in providing the top 3 to 5 individuals in the district the services they need.

**5. Services Updates:**

a. Security Camera Updates

Chris Boss provided an update regarding new camera installations and outreach for LPR-style camera locations, Union Square Park, and 1 Powell.

b. Retail Theft Prevention Committee Updates

Chris Boss discussed information detailed at the recent Retail Theft Prevention Committee meeting. The Alliance has completed a retail theft survey among members to compile accurate retail theft data in Union Square. The results of the survey were shared. Results showed that theft has increased. Discussions also took place regarding the solutions stores have implemented to prevent theft.

**6. July/August 2021 Operations Reports**

a. Karl Bijan, Operations Manager, Block by Block

Karl Bijan provided a summary of the July and August Operations Reports. It was reported that currently, 80% of the Block by Block staff are vaccinated. Block by Block is looking to increase staff vaccination rate to 100% by the end of the month. A strategic management plan has been put in place to improve internal communications. All the statistics have increased in comparison to last year for both



months. Karl also highlighted special projects including the live music event series at Union Square Park.

b. Ricky Soares, Manager, Legion Corporation – not present

Chris Boss provided a summary of Legion's operations for the month of July and August. The Alliance has increased overnight shifts to 7 days a week; 2 full time shifts per day staffed with two guards, from 2pm–10pm and 10pm–6am.

**7. Committee Updates:**

a. New Branded Uniforms

Lisa presented the new uniforms, vehicle wraps, and mega brute garbage cans designs for Block by Block designed by J2 Design. Discussions took place about the vehicle wraps and the needed input from Block by Block's team members regarding the design of the uniforms.

b. Bigbelly Sponsorship

The outreach process for Bigbelly Sponsorships has started. There are currently 15 units sponsored, and 22 units still available for sponsorship. Members who are interested can reach out to Chris Boss at [Chris@UnionSquareAlliance.com](mailto:Chris@UnionSquareAlliance.com).

c. Terracycle Expansion

A Terracycle is a unit used to collect cigarette butts. The company Terracycle recycles the cigarette butts and make them into plastic. District Works will be placing an additional 10 units in the district. A total of 16 units will be refreshed with new Alliance branding.

d. Camera and Parking Sign Placement

District Works will be replacing the 'Parking Prohibited' signs at Maiden Lane and 36 'Area Subject to Video Surveillance' signs in the district in compliance with the Alliance Video Surveillance System Usage Policy & Procedures. A discussion took place regarding parking regulations on Maiden Lane.

**8. Adjourned** — The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.