



Services and Public Safety

January 25, 2022, 9:00am – 10:30am

Virtual Meeting- Zoom

MINUTES

The following attendees were present: Sgt. Culbert Chu (SFPD), Dana Boyd (Newmark Knight Frank), Don Thomas (Donatello Building), Guillermo Perez Jr. (SF Public Works), Officer Haven Latimore (SFPD), John Joseph Garrity (SFPD), Officer Kwame Lovell (SFPD), Capt. Chris Canning (SFPD), Jordan Buckley (Paramount Hotels Inc.), Elida Mena (CBRA the Management Company), Lindsay Pfeiffer (Miracle Messages), Steven Suen (Biscuit & Blues), Linda Yau (Pebblebrook Hotel Trust), Maxine Papadakis (Papadakis Maxine A), Michael G. Petricca (Academy of the Arts), Nancy Wong (DPW), Ricky Soares (Legion), and Wes Tyler (Chancellor Hotel).

The following staff members were present: Marisa Rodriguez (Executive Director), Ben Horne (Deputy Director), Joshua Chan (Sr. Project Coordinator), Melanie Medina (Intern), and Alfonso Navarro (Op. Manager, Block by Block).

1. Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Deputy Director Ben Horne called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

2. Public Comments

Ben Horne asked for public comment. Hearing none, he moved to the next agenda item.

3. Action to approve committee meeting minutes

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

- a) Services and Public Safety and Retail Theft Prevention Committee Joint Meeting Minutes from 11/16/21.

Action: As moved by Maxine Papadakis and seconded by Mike Petricca, the committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from 11/16/21 as presented.

4. SFPD Union Square Area Updates and Reports

- a) Central Station, Capt. Ng

Officer Lovell gave an update from Central Station. Union Square will continue to have about 14 officers in the area every week covering both the day and night shifts. The command van and patrol vehicles will continue to remain in the area. Due to additional police presence in the area, it was reported that crime has decreased by 36%. Officer Lovell informed the committee that the linkage center on 1172 Market Street is now open.



b) Tenderloin Station, Capt. Canning

Capt. Canning directed the committee to the presented data. He spoke further about the linkage center that was created in response to the declared state of emergency in the Tenderloin district. The Tenderloin Station have been working alongside the Department of Emergency Management and have daily operation meetings to coordinate and facilitate the plan of action for the day. The linkage center garnering positive responses from people experiencing homelessness. It was added that the request for services at the center is completely voluntary.

c) Retired SFPD Ambassador, Joe Garrity

Joe Garrity reviewed the crime reports for November. He gave praise and thanked the Member Services Team for their work. Members of the Committee were encouraged to continue calling Member Services and 311 for any clean and safe issues. A discussion took place regarding illegal street vending in Union Square.

5. Services Updates

a) Security Camera Updates and **action** to approve agreement with AVS.

The Union Square Alliance received a \$500,000 grant from Chris Larson to provide more security cameras throughout the district. The Alliance would like to cover the Market Street corridor, Bush and Grant, and the north side of Union Square Park. We will need to do outreach to the businesses in those areas to get their permission to add these cameras.

Action: As moved by Maxine Papadakis and seconded by Mike Petricca, the committee unanimously approved the agreement with AVS.

b) DPW Monthly Report- Citations & Pending

Nancy Wong, the Public Information Officer of DPW provided an update about the derelict properties in the district. Those properties have been cited for illegal dumping and unaddressed graffiti that are outside of the Alliance's scope of services. A discussion took place regarding recent large amounts of cardboard around the district.

6. November/December 2021 Operations Reports

a) Alfonso Navarro, Operations Manager, Block by Block

Alfonson Navarro presented the operations report for both November and December. Due to a high presence of police in Union Square, fewer 10B shifts were assigned specifically to Union Square Alliance. The increase police presence also resulted in an overall decrease in litter and graffiti incidents. He informed the committee about the appreciation lunch for the ambassadors, safety summit, and highlighted the ambassador's new uniforms.

b) Ricky Soares, Manager, Legion Corporation

Ricky Soares advised the committee that there are two guards during the swing shift and 2 overnight guards that account for 16 hours a day. The main issue they have been addressing



is individuals obstructing the sidewalks, building exits, and other doorways. Ricky also reported that the months of November and December were slower because of overall high police presence.

7. Committee updates:

a) Services Manager Karen Gagarin and Hiring of Director of Services

Ben announced that Karen Gagarin has been promoted to Services Manager. We are still in the process of hiring a Director of Services. Resumes have been sent and are being reviewed. We hope to hire a new director by March.

b) Safety Summit next meeting

The next safety summit was originally going to be held in February, however, due to uncertainties posed by the omicron variant, it has been postponed to March. A virtual summit was mentioned as a possibility.

c) Block by Block Uniforms and Vehicles Branding Updates

The ambassadors have new bright blue uniforms and the pressure washing vehicles have been branded. The day-to-day vehicle will not be wrapped but rather have new sticker signage to cover up the old logo.

d) Chinese New Year Parade February 19th

The Chinese New Year Parade is still scheduled to take place on February 19th. There will be fireworks at Union Square Park and the park will be barricade off from the public during this time.

e) Block by Block Contract Amendment discussion and **action** to approve proposed contract amendments effective February 1st

Ben excused Alfonso from this portion of the meeting due to his relationship with Block by Block. Ben then continued and discuss possibilities to retain and attract more staff to work for Block by Block. These possibilities will then be presented to the Board of Directors on Thursday January 27th, for their approval.

Action: As moved by Don Thomas and seconded by Steven Suen, the committee unanimously approved the proposed contract amendments effective of February 1st.

f) **Action** to approve \$45,000 grant from City for additional Bigbellys

The city has granted the Alliance \$45,000 for new Bigbellys and maintenance for the current ones. Discussion took place regarding the city's green trash cans.

Action: As moved by Don Thomas and seconded by Maxine Papadakis, the committee unanimously approved \$45,000 grant from City for additional Bigbellys.

8. Adjourn