



Services and Public Safety

May 23, 2023, 9:00am – 10:30am

Virtual Meeting- Zoom

MINUTES-APPROVED

The following attendees were present: Don Thomas (Donatello Building), Joe Della Cella (Recology), John Joseph Garrity (SFPD), Ricky Soares (Legion), Joe Shelley (Legion), Derreck Hughs (Block by Block), Tinea Adams (Block by Block), Ofc. Kwame Lovell (SFPD), Sgt. Culbert Chu (SFPD), Captain Douglas Farmer (SFPD), Mike Petricca (Academy of the Arts), Dmitri Shimolin (Applied Video Solutions), Tammy Brock (Lids), Susan Brown, Steven Suen (Biscuit & Blues), and Maxine Papadakis.

The following staff members were present: Marisa Rodriguez (CEO), Ben Horne (CFO), Ken Rich (COO), and Melanie Medina (Executive Assistant).

1. Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

- a) Chair Don Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:05am.
- b) Brief Overview of the Agenda/Key Points
- c) Upcoming Key Dates
 - Suit Up! - June 16th at Macy's, Second Floor
 - Union Square Alliance Annual Board Meeting- May 25th at Axiom Hotel

2. Public Comments

Don asked for public comment. Ben Horne mentioned the challenging press Union Square has been receiving lately despite positive news such as the mayor's commitment to Powell Street.

3. Action to approve committee meeting minutes.

- a) Services and Public Safety Meeting Minutes from 3/21/22.

Action: As moved by Mike Petricca and seconded by Don Thomas, the committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from 11/15/22 as presented.

4. SFPD Union Square Area Updates and Reports

- a) Central Station; Captain Douglas Farmer

Captain Farmer and Officer Lovell spoke on behalf of Central Station. They have been able to maintain their efforts in Union Square with their police presence and command van. In the month of March, statistics show that larceny and thefts have decreased. They



continue to work closely with the DA's office to assist with prosecutions of repeat offenders. SFPD will continue to stay visible and present as summer approaches. Discussion took place regarding SFPD's priorities and resources and how they are being utilized within Union Square.

b) Tenderloin Station; Captain Sergio Chin

No representative from Tenderloin Station was present. Ben Horne did inform the committee that that Alliance was requested to provide services to Bloomingdales, which is a block away from the district. Discussion took place regarding the issues around the Cable Car turnaround.

c) Retired SFPD Ambassador; Joe Garrity

The SFPD Ambassador program has expanded to cover 7 days of the week between the hours of 10am-8pm. They have noticed an uptick in mentally disturbed individuals. With nicer weather approaching, it is expected to see an overall increase in unhoused individuals.

5. March & April 2023 Operations Reports

a) Tinea Adams, Block by Block

Tinea noted that in the month of March there has been an increase in hospitality interactions, litter removal, and quality of life interactions. This may be due to an increase in tourism and spring break. Block by Block held a "Nacho Average Ambassador" event to show their appreciation to the staff. For the month of April, there was an increase in hospitality interactions, cleaning requests, and 10B incidents while there was a decrease in graffiti removal, litter removal, and quality of life calls compared to the month of March.

Discussion took place regarding the variance in the statistics between the two months and how to improve accurately reporting incidents for the future.

b) Ricky Soares, Manager, Legion Corporation

Ricky informed the committee that Legion has been focusing on improving on reporting incidents to accurately log calls for statistical purposes. Legion has noticed an uptick in mentally disturbed individuals and have been successful with deescalating situations. Discussion took place about amplified noise and having Legion track their hospitality interactions to create closer relationships with merchants in the district.

6. Services Updates

a) Services RFP: Recommendation to the Board of Directors on Vendor Selection

The Alliance released a services RFP in March 2023 for clean and safety services, overnight pressure washing, and security. A committee was informed to read the proposals, interview, and make recommendations to this committee to bring to the Board of Directors. In



conclusion, the committee has recommended sticking with the Alliance's current providers, Block by Block and Legion security.

Derreck Hughes, VP of Operations for Block by Block, thanked the committee for the opportunity to continue working with the Alliance. Block by Block will aim to evolve their current services, include event support, and refine existing equipment.

Joe Shelley, Founder of Legion Corporation, also thanked the committee for their choice to continue working with the Alliance. Legion will include additional training to best equip their guards, will be looking into bike patrols, and training with SFPD. Discussion took place regarding the increased use of technology.

Block by Block and Legion will work closely together to better enhance both their services.

Action: The committee unanimously approved to make recommendation to the Board of Directors with vendor selection as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded Steven Suen.

7. Adjourn