



Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting

January 23, 2024, 9:30am – 11:00am
Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

The following attendees were present: Don Thomas (Donatello Building), John Joseph Garrity (SFPD), Joe Della Cella (Recology), Ricky Soares (Legion), Tammy Brock (Lids), Steven Suen (Biscuits & Blues), Lt. Dean Hall, Captain Eric Kim, Acting Captain Manning (Tenderloin PD), Maxine Papadakis, Brenna Carrick, Wes Tyler, Jordan Buckley, Roland Tolosa (AVS), Israel Ginez (Legion), Lisa Ising (SFMTA), Jordan Fathom, and Dominique Charles (Public Works).

The following staff members were present: Ben Horne (CFO), Jason Cherniss (Director of Services), Lance Goree (Operations Managers- Block by Block), and Melanie Medina (Executive Assistant).

1. Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

- a) Don Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:31am.
- b) Brief Overview of the Agenda/Key Points

2. Public Comments

Ben shared the 2024 meeting calendar for the Services committee. Tammy Brock asked for clarification on the 25 MPC No Trespassing sign as she has been noticing different versions throughout the district. The Alliance will include the latest version of the 25 NPC notice in the next member newsletter.

3. Action to approve committee meeting minutes.

- a) Services and Public Safety meeting minutes from November.

Action: As moved by Wes Tyler and seconded by Roland, the committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from November 2023 as presented.

4. Committee Updates

- a) Welcome new Director of Services; Jason Cherniss

Ben introduced Jason Cherniss to the committee as the Alliance's new Director of Services. Jason's previous experience includes 31 years with SFPD working as a Captain in the Tenderloin and well as various other positions during his tenure. His SFPD background includes community organizing and community safety and wellness. The committee welcomed Jason to the Alliance.

- b) Derby Alley Follow Up

Dominique from SF Public Works shared a progress report on Derby Alley. Historically, the alley has faced challenges with a broken gate, allowing the



unhoused population to enter and access Recology bins, resulting in debris accumulation. Also, the Recology bins are not actually allowed to be visible from the public right of way. She noted the problems of giving citations to the property owners for uncleanliness and negligence. She also shared that there has been positive response to installing a new gate from the businesses. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of surrounding businesses paying for a new gate, how the gate would operate and who would have keys.

c) Texting Member Services

Ben informed the committee that Cube84 is working on texting capabilities for Member Services requests. It is currently in its testing phase to ensure a two-way communication between the community and Member Services. The goal is to have this service up and running by March 2024.

d) Union Square Park services and upcoming events

The Chinese New Year Parade will take place on February 24 with a firework show to end the night at Union Square Park. March 23rd marks the official kick off of Union Square in Bloom for the third year. Tulip Day will take place on Saturday March 9th. The Alliance holds the permit for Tulip Day and will be placing crowd control measures.

Ben summarized the LAZ agreement. Men at Work continues to service the park with cleaning and maintenance. Discussion took place regarding the lack of overnight services in the park.

5. November/December 2023 Operations Reports

a) Lance Goree, Operations Manager, Block by Block

Lance noted that Block by Block has expanded its services for event support which will no longer require a third-party vendor. This will save between 40%-60% of costs. There are now three certified forklift drivers at Block by Block.

Lance recognized Greg Garrett as the Ambassador of the Month for his dedication and comprehension of the responsibilities involved in the role. Lance also shared updates on staffing levels, including the addition of 5 ambassadors for the evening hours from 2 pm to 11 pm. Discussion took place regarding employee retention and managing service request responses during the transition between morning and evening shifts.

Lance noted a section in the ops report that gives insight on the employees of Block by Block about their goals for the company.

Ricky Soares, Manager, Legion Corporation

Ricky gave an overview of the highlights from the Legion team. There has been an increase in sit and lie cases along with mentally challenged individuals in December. In



November, there was an incident where Legion guards reached out to the City's crisis response team for an individual requiring assistance, ensuring they received the necessary medical attention. Additionally, during the Winter Walk activation, there was an incident involving a food truck, and Legion guards promptly established a safety barrier between the truck and the public.

Discussion took place about the rise in statistics in December in comparison to November. Ricky highlighted that with APEC in November, there were additional resources available to the district, while in December, the Winter Walk activation led to an increase in calls and requests. There was a query seeking clarification on the meaning of "Misc. Passing Calls" in the stat report and the reason behind its high number. Ricky clarified that misc. passing calls indicate perimeter checks performed by the guards when no specific calls are being made. A higher number in this category is positive as it signifies proactive security measures.

Joe Garrity, SFPD Ambassador Program

Joe updated the committee on the ambassadors' transition to logging their calls and statistics via their phones, adapting to this new method. He highlighted that the surge in sit and lie cases was attributed to the inclement rainy weather. In November, there was a deployment along the South of Market corridor, drawing their attention away from the district. Furthermore, additional ambassadors have been incorporated into the program.

6. Reports from SFPD- Captain Kim, Lt. Hall (Central Station), Acting Captain Manning (Tenderloin)

Captain Kim provided the committee with statistics indicating an 8% decrease in thefts but a 7% increase in robbery incidents from 2022 to 2023. He pointed out that luxury watches were a specific target. Captain Kim also mentioned the availability of an online reporting option, particularly designed for retail theft, which offers a streamlined process for both retailers and the SFPD. To access the form, individuals can email the following address and return the completed form: sfpd.retailtheft@sfgov.org. Additionally, he emphasized the direct contact number for the command van: 415-470-0860.

Acting Captain Manning highlighted a concentrated effort in and around Hallidie Plaza and SF Centre. Undercover officers have been deployed in public spaces, dressed in plain clothes, with a primary focus on addressing drug and gun-related issues. In the Tenderloin, there were 800 felony arrests in 2023. Notably, there has been a reduction in the number of foot beat officers, decreasing from 30 to 14.

Furthermore, Acting Captain Manning mentioned the opportunity to install additional cameras following the receipt of the Organized Retail Crime grant. These cameras will be strategically placed at identified "hot spots" intersections. The committee engaged in a



discussion about police redistricting boundaries and the advocacy necessary to support this initiative.

7. Discussion and update regarding master services agreement with Block by Block for services starting November 1.

Ben informed the committee that a master agreement is being finalized between the Alliance and Block by Block. The agreement will include all amendments from the past agreements.

8. Discussion regarding Bigbelly program, grant and status

The Alliance applied to RFP 228 that would financially support the Big Belly program for maintenance for \$50k. Ben noted that once the city-wide trashcan rolls out, it will replace all BigBellies including those in the district. However, the grant funds would be useful in maintaining the fleet since a lot of repairs and replacements were needed.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding revised pressure washing services from the Larsen grant received in October 2023.

The initial pressure washing schedule was set for once a week along the market corridor by Hallidie Plaza and 5th and Market. The grant would enable additional services, increasing the frequency to 3-4 times a week. Block by Block presented the Alliance with a quote for the extra pressure washing. Initially, the grant funds were expected to cover 2 years of additional pressure washing services. However, the quote received was only for one year. Ben is currently addressing this issue and working on finalizing the service agreement with Block by Block.

Action: The committee unanimously approved the revised pressure washing services from the Chris Larsen grant as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded by Maxine Papadakis.

10. Security Camera program updates, LPRs and additional cameras

Ben addressed the committee if anyone is interested in adding security cameras to the exterior of their building, to reach out to the Alliance. As of today, the camera system covers 60-70% of the district.

11. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- a) Board of Directors Meeting- January 25, 2024, at 9am
- b) Retail Theft Prevention Committee – February 2024 TBC
- c) Union Square Annual Lunch Save the Date – May 3, 2024

12. Adjourn - 10:30