



## Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

9:00am–10:30am

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and In-Person at 291 Geary Street, Suite 200

### Minutes

**In attendance:** Don Thomas (Club Donatello), Joe Garrity (SFPD), Lieutenant Dean Hall (SFPD), Captain Kim (SFPD), Joe Della Cella (Recology), Israel Ginez (Legion), Wes Tyler (Chancellor Hotel), Sgt. Jennifer Marino (SFPD), Brenna Carrick (Newmark Knight Frank), Domenique Charles (DPW), Lisa Ising (SFMTA), Lance Goree (Block by Block), Chip (Block by Block), Miracle Matau (Block by Block), Steven Suen (Biscuits & Blues), and Blake Eikenberg (Chotto Matte).

**Staff:** Ben Horne (Chief Financial Officer), Daniela Vasile (Interim Director of Operations), Melanie Medina (Executive Assistant), and AnaKatrina Cortado (intern).

#### 1. Welcome, introductions, & brief announcements

a) Introduction to Daniela Vasile

Daniela Vasile introduced herself as the Alliance's Interim Director of Operations and gave a brief overview of her background. She stated her ten years of experience in the industry, and expresses how glad she is moving back to SF.

b) Holiday Fundraiser

Ben informed the committee that the Union Square Foundation Holiday Fundraiser will take place on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Town and Country Club. Sponsorships and tickets are now available. All were encouraged to support and attend the celebration.

#### 2. Public Comment

Don Thomas and Ben Horne share their gratitude for the Services team working hard on the streets of Union Square despite tough circumstances and a challenging environment. With no further comments, the Service Committee moves forward to the next item on the agenda.

#### 3. ACTION to Approve Committee Meeting Minutes from July 2024

**Action:** The Services Committee minutes from July 2024 were unanimously approved by the committee as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded by Wes Tyler.

#### 4. Committee Updates

a. District360 Project Updates

Ben and Daniela reported issues with the member services texting program, citing incidences in which users' texts reporting safety and cleaning issues are not being received by member services. This issue was being researched and addressed. On another note, they stated there



were plans to integrate Legion into District360 (same platform as Block by Block). Legion currently is using Syncrew. In addition, the Alliance working with Cube84 is developing geo tracking for ambassadors, cleaners and security staff. This ultimately will allow for tracking of Ambassadors' and Security Guard's walk paths, collecting data that could be utilized to enhance service delivery and ensure all areas of the district are being patrolled proactively.

b. Hospitality Zone RFP

Don provided positive examples of how hospitality zones are effective regarding public safety on the East Coast. Ben shared that there is RFP 230, to provide up to \$2.5 million dollars over a span of 2 years to provide Ambassador Services to the Union Square District and areas such as Market Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street. He suggested that Ambassadors work in pairs in the night and overnight hours. Ben noted if the RFP grant contract is granted to the Alliance, this may potentially free assessments dollars that would be allocated to additional security through Legion.

c. Union Square Derby Alley working group update/DPW

Steven Suen acknowledged the swift action taken by the City departments to help clean up Derby Alley. Discussion took place regarding who will have access to the gate and keys at the entrance, noting the necessity for Recology to have access to the alley for trash pickup. Steven also pointed out that there are also unhoused people on the premises and in the parking garage that wraps around the Spring Valley Water Building. Dominique Charles reported that the unhoused people are squatters who have settled in after being cleared from Derby Alley and using the Alley to scavenge and do other do other activities. She recommended implementing 'No Trespassing' signs and more lighting and cameras. Wes Tyler emphasized that fixing the broken gate of Derby Alley seems to be a low-cost option to improve security. Daniela noted that it may be better to remove it as people were hiding in the alley selling and consuming drugs and doing other illegal activities.

d. Upcoming events in Union Square Plaza

Ben updated the committee on upcoming events at Union Square Plaza, such as Cambodia Day and Fleet Week. Other upcoming events are the final SF Live on October 12, 2024, and Winter Walk on Stockton Street, hosted from December 13 – December 22, 2024.

e. Bigbelly Program and grant updates

Daniela informed the committee that the current fleet of Bigbelly units has had to have a lot of repairs and replacements due to vandalism and fire damage. 23 units will be replaced and a dozen more will be repaired along with the Alliance branding wraps that need to be refreshed. Ben stated that the goal is to have full operational use of the Bigbellies for the upcoming holidays.

**5. July and August 2024 Operation Report**

a. Lance Goree, Operations Manager, Block by Block

Lance Goree discussed the July 2024 and August 2024 operations reports and statistics pertaining to video footage requests, officers, and staffing. He also highlighted the achievements of Tanisha Blackwell, the July Ambassador of the Month, and Moises Rivas, the August Ambassador of the Month, stating that he was very proud to have two hard workers on his team.



He further demonstrated the Ambassadors' hard work by displaying Before and After comparison photos. Finally, Lance emphasized the identified locations that are deliberately targeted due to persistent issues. Legion will begin to regularly visit the list of locations. Don Lepana introduced Miracle Matau as the new Member Services Supervisor for Block by Block and will be overseeing the Member Services team and assisting Lance.

b. Michael Brown, Managing Director, Legion Corporation

Legion staff did not report out at this time.

c. Joe Garrity, SFPD Ambassador Program

Joe Garrity informed the committee that the SFPD retired ambassadors are transitioning to an app to capture their data rather than relying on paper stat forms. This will be implemented in the coming months. Joe concluded by saying the program was well staffed and going strong.

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

Captain Kim shared that the proper stationing of police officers to their assigned locations contributed to their fast response time to the Ricky Pearsall shooting. He also cited various statistics regarding crime: robberies (24% decrease), theft (50% decrease), and auto-theft (50% increase). Additionally, Lieutenant Hall reported that SFPD has maintained a good relationship between SFPD and the hotel union protesters. He also provided a report regarding the recent Powell BART station shooting. Although officers engaged with gunfire, no citizens were harmed in the crossfire. Ben asked Captain Kim about the police redistricting process. Captain Kim informed the committee that SFPD is required under the City of San Francisco to conduct an evaluation of police district station boundaries every 10 years, effective July 2026. Israel Ginez and Michael Brown express their gratitude to SFPD and their service.

**7. Contract updates and possible action to approve amendments/extensions**

Ben gave an overview of the contract extensions for Block by Block, Legion Security, and AVS, highlighting the length of the contract extensions and their costs. The main focuses include the salaries of various Block by Block positions, monthly costs of services, and additional costs pertaining to the maintenance of equipment. The extensions did not increase pricing but simply extended the last term either one or two additional months (through the end of November).

**Action:** The committee unanimously approved recommending the contract extensions through November 30, 2024, to the Board of Directors as motioned by Wes Tyler and seconded by Don Thomas.

**8. Security Camera program updates**

a. Recent/Current Camera projects

Ben reported that there are two new camera locations in the district. One at the corner of Powell and O'Farrell and the other at 110 Geary. There are currently 530+ cameras in the district.

**9. Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

- a. Alliance Board of Directors Annual Meeting – September 26, 2024, at 9am – Morton's
- b. Holiday Safe Shopper, November 13, 2024, at 9am



**10. Adjourned:** 10:30am