



## **Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

9:00am–10:30am

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

### **Minutes**

**In attendance:** Don Thomas (Club Donatello), Maxine Papadakis (resident), Brenna Carrick (Newmark Knight Frank), Jordan Buckley (Frame Ventures), Gil Steven (CBRE), Kevin Flanagan (Recology), Kristie Arevalo (CBRE), Sheila Marko (Wilson Meany), Steven Suen (Biscuits & Blues), Wes Tyler (Chancellor), Joe Garrity (SFPD), Lt. Dean Hall (SFPD), Curtis Wong (SFPD), Assist. Lt. Jennifer Marino (SFPD), Danny Li (SFPD), Acting Lt. Eric Batchelder (SFPD), Dominique Charles (SF Public Works), Dmitri Shimolin (AVS), Miracle Matau (Block by Block), Jaffar Mendieta (Block by Block), Israel Ginez (Legion), Jackson Alcantra (Legion), and Tammy Brock (Property Owner).

**Staff:** Daniela Vasile (COO), Ben Horne (CFO), Melanie Medina (Executive Assistant), and E. Ryan Santamaria (Intern).

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

Daniela Vasile called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

#### **2. Public Comment**

Daniela called for a public comment. Seeing none, the meeting continued.

#### **3. ACTION to Approve Committee Meeting Minutes**

Daniela directed the Committee to review the previous Services Committee meeting minutes sent out in advance.

**Action:** The Committee unanimously approved July 22, 2025, meeting minutes, as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded by Maxine Papadakis.

#### **4. Committee Updates**

##### **a. Alliance staffing update.**

Daniela announced that Sokhom Mao has resigned from the Director of Services position, and the Alliance is seeking a new Services Manager to fill in that role. She thanks Sokhom for his efforts with the organization. As for Block by Block, their Operations Manager, Jaffar Mendieta, has been promoted to a regional position within the organization. Block by Block is currently searching for his replacement.

##### **b. District360 launch updates.**

Daniela reported that the Alliance has been working with Legion to get them onboard with District360. They are still in the testing phase and will compare systems to ensure that statistics



are collected correctly. Jackson Alcantra confirmed that the process is being executed smoothly, and the team is adapting to the system. By August 1st, the Legion team is expected to fully utilize District360.

c. Block By Block office updates.

Daniela stated that Block by Block relocated to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Flood Building for a larger space. As a result, the Flood Building released the Alliance from lease obligations and Block by Block took it over. Ben expressed the possibility of the Flood Building getting a tenant with a 90 termination clause. The Alliance will be searching for backup locations, such as Hallidie Plaza, as a potential space for an operations center.

d. Union Square Derby Alley working group update/DPW

Daniela shared that Derby Alley has been seeing significant improvement, with the likes of a fixed gate and decreased loitering, as well as looking to install floodlights to create a safer environment. Dominique Charles stated that they have been looking for hotels that can support the continued Derby Alley efforts financially.

e. Bigbelly program updates

Daniela gave an update regarding the big belly contract status ending in August. The Alliance has been seeking quotes from other vendors for alternatives in terms of price and maintenance.

**5. SFPD Updates – Lt. Hall (Central Station), Captain Matt Sullivan (Tenderloin), Captain Stephen Jonas, Sgt. Anthony Suhrke (RTIC)**

a. SFPD Real Time Investigation Center (RTIC)

Lt. Dean Hall gave an overview of updates such as the arrival of new businesses in the district, the bollard program progressing, and preventing retail theft with more presence at retailers. He noted that crime rates are down by at least 20% due to garage and homeless checks as well as overall high visibility in public areas. A new captain, Christopher E. Del Gandio, was appointed at Central Station. Discussion took place regarding addressing homelessness and garage safety.

Sgt. Tony Circuit provided information about the drones, specifically operating the FLOCK license plate readers and partnerships with private public partnerships with BIDs, CBDs, and private camera networks. In terms of license plate readers, there are 400 cameras citywide, accessing over 600 networks nationwide. DFR is looking to expand to citywide DFR coverage, including Skydio and Aerodome.

b. Drone as First Responder

On behalf of SFPD, Acting Lt. Eric Batchelder expressed his excitement in partnership with the Alliance, as there will be 12 drone sites throughout San Francisco. Video clips were shown to the committee regarding real case studies captured by the drone program and utilized effectively to identify and catch the suspects. Examples shown were an auto burglary arrest and another as a robbery.

**6. Hospitality Zone RFP 230 Updates**



a. May and June Reports.

In terms of graffiti abatement, Jaffar highlighted that there have been 3,500 instances that have been removed within the first half of 2025, approximately 500 removals per month. For the month of May, there were many calls for open drug use and the Block by Block team made sure to address those situations properly. Notably, there was a sharp decline of 50% in needle collection from May to June. Furthermore, for welfare check compliance, Block by Block conducts 1000-1200 welfare checks monthly, resulting in a 93.5% compliance rate in May and 95.2% in June. Additionally, there has been a decrease in aggressive panhandling and indecent exposure as of recently.

b. Staffing, Schedule & Deployment.

Daniela explained that the Alliance has approximately \$1.9 million from the city to deploy Safety Ambassadors. It was expected to end in September, however, the City requested to extend it by the end of December. Therefore, the Alliance has been working with Block by Block and the City to reduce the deployment to abide by their request. Additionally, due to this extension, there has been a reduction in staffing in June and July.

## 7. **May and June 2025 Operations Reports**

a. Jaffar Mendieta, Operations Manager, Block by Block

Jaffar Mendieta noted that there has been a strong emphasis on 311 requests within his team, specifically cleaning and safety-wise, due to an uptick in these calls. There have been many issues regarding illegal dumping and have partnered with Dominique Charles from SF Public Works, to find a resolution for businesses within the district.

b. Jackson Alcantra, Security Manager, Legion Corporation

Jackson Alcantra stated that the grand opening of the Nintendo Store in May resulted in a surge of large visitor crowds. Legion reported over 7,000 security engagements, dispatched about 550 dispatch calls, and addressed over 920 sit and lie violations. The upkeep of hotspots has been in Hallidie Plaza, Cable Car Turnaround, and Shannon Alley. In both May and June, there has been a decrease in unhousing rates, panhandlers (72% decrease in June), and noise violations (60% decrease in June). A constant challenge is the use of force, so Legion has started infield training for their guards, in which there have been no reports of any use of force over the last two months. One recent significant situation was when Legion was dispatched to a man unresponsive at Hallidie Plaza, ultimately saving the man's life after urgent action and the arrival of the paramedics.

## 8. **Contract updates, discussion, and action to approve for recommendation to Board of Directors:**

a. RFP 230 amendments

The funds from RFP230 will end at the end of the year, instead of the initial end in September. The grant has been used to free up assessment dollars and double security coverage from two guards to four guards every shift. As of January 1, 2026, currently in the budget, all services go back to the baseline U.S. BID assessment level only, meaning the Alliance will continue providing the services they have already been executing for their district members as part of the agreement in the management plan.



Ben shared that there is half a million dollars that the City wants to fund to the Alliance and Yerba Buena each to continue the Welcome Ambassador program. The Alliance is still waiting for the RFP and will ultimately amend RFP230 if approved.

b. Contract amendments

The contract amendment for Block by Block is still in progress and will be ready to approve by September's committee meeting so there will not be any action required at this time. Ben stated that the Alliance must amend both Block by Block and Legion contract as it relates to RFP 230.

There have also been changes to the contract between the Alliance and Union Square Park. There are two daily services, one being security and another as an ambassador. SF Recreation and Parks are exploring directly contracting with vendors rather than through the Alliance.

Ben also explained that due to the change of rent space for Block by Block, changes within the contract must be made.

As for the pressure washing grant, there has been an increase in weekly usage so the Alliance will be engaging in conversations to renew the grant.

**9. Security Camera program updates – AVS**

a. SFPD camera access

Dmitri Shimolin reported that they have provided access for the Alliance's approval to the SFPD video retrieval officers. Additionally, the pilot project is processing smoothly, where SFPD integrated three selected locations in the district with automated license plate technology available to the RTIC team. SFPD's goal is to maximize the effectiveness of these security cameras. It was noted that a challenge with license plate readers is the limitations when running from solar panels. Discussion took place regarding main purposes of camera usage.

b. Recent/Current camera projects and LPRs updates

With major events coming to the Bay Area in the upcoming year such as the Superbowl and FIFA World Cup, Dmitri stated that there is renewed interest in covering the public realm, particularly Market Street hospitality and entertainment zones. Commander Luke Martin is expected to oversee the sporting events. SFPD has assessed all Market Street coverage in preparation. Ben added that Wiline is the main internet service provider for the security camera network in which there has been complications with contracting, therefore

**10. Upcoming Events and Meetings**

- a. Alliance Board of Directors Meeting – July 24, 2025, 9am (Taj Campton Place)
- b. Next Services Committee – September 16, 2025

**11. Adjourned: 10:19 a.m.**