

**Garden District Security District
Public Hearing and Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 8, 2023**

The regular meeting and public hearing of the Board of Commissioners of Garden District Security District convened on June 8, 2023 at 8:30 am at the Rink, 2727 Prytania, Unit 20.

Ms. Landrieu was present as Executive Director, confirmed the posting of the notice and called the roll. Commissioners present included Baudouin, Davis, Legardeur, Schmidt, Wolf, and Wood forming a quorum. Commissioner LeGardeur, President, called for the public hearing to open and called the meeting to order. No guests were in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 31, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mrs. Schmidt seconded by Mr. Davis.

Financial Report

Mr. Davis, as treasurer, reviewed the financial reports of 5/31/23 that were distributed to all. All appeared to be in order with regard to expenses. Income appeared higher at this time last year. There was no discussion.

Patrol Report

Mr. LeGardeur noted that several concerns raised by neighbors of First and Camp Street area reporting that several auto break-ins had occurred on that street in the last several days. Several neighbors had met with some of the Board members and had voiced their concerns that the GDSD was not doing enough to protect the area. They requested additional coverage and actions to be taken by the GDSD patrol and board of Commissioners. They also requested greater transparency.

He reminded all that he and Ms. Landrieu and Mr. Shugar had been working to update the website for the past several months, but more needed to be done. He committed to updating the patrols stats every day and would continue to train the GDSD supervisors on how to handle this task. He noted that to increase transparency, additional links and documents would be added to the site such as the GDSD Bylaws, Open meetings Law, minutes, notices and agendas of all GDSD meetings, board member contact information, and other resources that may be helpful to the residents and businesses in the district.

He made the following suggestions for the Board's consideration:

~ Engage a security consultant to perform and updated assessment of the GDSD patrol and to recommend an update framework for the GDSD patrol coverage and operations. After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Schmidt to approve a maximum of \$20,000 to hire a c 3rd party expert consultant to assess the current situation in the GDSD and the city and to make a recommendation to the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Davis, the matter passed without objection.

~ Consider setting up an advisory committee(s) to work with the board in improving issues such as patrol coverage, communications/ outreach and the camera program. After some discussion, the consensus was to put this suggestion on hold.

~ Increase the pay tier for the NOPD detail officers in an effort to recruit more NOPD details in the GDSD. Ms. Landrieu noted that this had been raised before but not officially voted on. The GDSD current rate is Tier 2+ (\$37/hr to officer/ cost GDSD \$45/hr) The most recent OPSE/ NOPD payment tiers were distributed showing a Tier 3 pay to officers as 46.33/hr; cost to GDSD is \$54.33/hr; And tier 4 which gives officer \$68/hr and cost GDSD \$76/hr. After discussion, a motion by Commissioner Wolf to increase the NOPD pay up to Tier 4 was made and seconded by Commissioner Davis. This measure passed without objection.

Subsequent suggestions included asking for higher ranking NOPD personnel (additional cost for Tier 3) and to strongly request a marked vehicle. Ms. Landrieu noted that the request for a marked vehicle was always the case for OPSE but that marked vehicles were not available to all officers. If a marked car in mandatory, the detail shifts may not be filled at all. She requested clarification from the Commission as to whether the NOPD marked car was mandatory or strongly preferred under these circumstances. The consensus was to strongly preferred if no marked cars were available.

In asking what additional coverage should be added, if any, to handle the uptick in crime. It was suggested that Pinnacle /GSDS patrol add one 8-hour daily shift in a 4th car between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am which is when most of the recent crimes occurred. Further discussion led to this car being used as the “hot spot” vehicle and moved around as needed as issues arose. Upon a motion by Mr. Baudouin seconded by Mr. Wood, to add an additional car for a one-month period of time, during the hours noted above and moved if warranted then reevaluated, the question passed without objection. Ms. Landrieu reminded all that the supervisors with Pinnacle noted that this may be a car sporting Pinnacle decals rather than GSDS decals.

Mr. Legardeur reminded all that a neighborhood meeting was set with 6th District NOPD Capt. Gillard and Cm Harris for June 15 at McGehee School at noon. Discussion ensued re the proper questions to ask of Capt. Gillard.

Adjournment

There was no further business. Upon a motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.