

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 3, 2021 – 4:00PM
Zoom Teleconference**

Chair Marsh called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

Members Present: Leo Marsh, Gregory Curtis, Chris Ross, Coleman Adler, Judy Barrasso, Jim Cook, Jade Brown-Russell, Carla Major

Members Absent: Cleveland Spears, Michelle Craig, Damon Burns

Staff/Counsel Present: Richard McCall, Anthony Carter, Sabrina Smith, Devona Dolliole, Leigh Ferguson, Ryan Bordenave, Joshua Vairin, Bill Aaron (Counsel),

Members of the Public: Janet Hays, Davonte Green, Lt. Sammy Palumbo of the NOPD 8th District

Notice: The time, location, and agenda had been adequately and publicly noticed.

Call for Public Input Cards: N/A

Action Items

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2021 Board Meeting
- Approval of May 2021 Financial Report
- Approval of June 2021 Financial Report
- Approval of Resolution Awarding Contract for Installation & Removal of Holiday Decorations

Public Comments – Commissioner Marsh noted for public record that Richard McCall, the current Interim President & CEO is leaving the DDD effective August 27, 2021.

Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2021 Board Meeting– Action Item – Commissioner Marsh requested a motion to approve the June 1, 2021 meeting minutes. Anthony Carter stated that minor changes needed to be made to the minutes and proceeded to inform the Board of those changes. Commissioner Marsh requested a motion to approve the June 1, 2021 minutes with the noted changes. Moved by Commissioner Barrasso; Supported by Commissioner Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by Melanie Talia, President & CEO, New Orleans Police & Justice Foundation – NOPD Staffing and Recruitment Efforts

Ms. Talia's thanked the DDD for partnering with them with the placement of crime cameras Downtown. She explained that the NOPD went from a staff of 1,600, which includes civilians, to approximately 1,100. In 2013 the police foundation with private funds stepped into the recruiting business. They assisted by developing a fully digital process for applicants and provided programs such as Statement of Personal History, which had a positive effect on the time frame to conduct and conclude a background investigation.

Getting applicants to test takers is the issue at this time she stated. On average 25% of applicants need to be converted to test takers for the NOPD to meet any given goal regarding manpower, and the budget is what stands in the way of this happening. Currently NOPD has two full time recruiters and they have a uniformed officer who does so part time. The Foundation has a part time person on staff that spends some time assisting with this. There needs to be more to achieve the rate necessary. Another major issue is that the pay for officers is below that of other jurisdictions, which is why current officers leave the NOPD to go to them.

Chair Marsh asked that she let us know if there is anything more the DDD can do to assist.

Presentation by Joshua Cox, Director of Strategic Initiatives, City of New Orleans – Mayor's Gun Violence Prevention Initiative

Mr. Cox reviewed the Mayor's Approach to Reducing Violent Crime. This will entail viewing public safety as a public health issue; addressing root causes, engaging with youth, and having targeted resources. The way we will get back on track is through prevention, apprehension, and intervention. Prevention through investing in youth, families, and community leaders of New Orleans to reduce the incidence of violence. Apprehension through arresting people who commit crimes. Intervention by providing post-detention support and development programs for youth and adults alike to reduce recidivism and make our communities stronger.

The Cantrell Administration has also worked closely with NOPD to ensure that policing is done right in New Orleans.

Treasurer's Report –

Approval of May 2021 Financial Report – Action Item – Since there were two months of financials Anthony Carter presented the June financials to the Committee. There were no questions in reference to the May financials. Therefore, Commissioner Marsh called for a motion to approve the May financials. Moved by Commissioner Brown-Russell; Supported by Commissioner Barrasso; Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of June 2021 Financial Report – Action Item – Anthony Carter presented the June financials to the Board. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Marsh called for a motion to approve the June financials. Moved by Commissioner Brown-Russell; Supported by Commissioner Barrasso; Motion carried unanimously.

Chair’s Report –

Approval of Resolution Awarding Contract for Installation and Removal of Holiday Decorations – After a brief discussion on the possibility of the percentage requested for DBE participation being changed and a decision that it will be discussed at a later meeting, the Resolution was read and the roll call vote is as follows: 8 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. The Resolution was approved.

Presentation of President & CEO Recruitment Brochure - Anthony Carter informed the Board that the brochure was approved by the Executive Search Committee and that it would be available on our website for at least 15 days. The Board asked that Anthony request a timeline for the entire process from Winner Partners.

President’s Report – The Department Directors reviewed their monthly reports which are attached.

Old Business – N/A

New Business- Chair Marsh stated that since Richard McCall, Interim President & CEO was leaving that he wanted to discuss someone taking on that role. Since the Board agreed Chair Marsh called for a motion to amend the agenda to appoint a new Interim President & CEO. Moved by Commissioner Major; Supported by Commissioner Cook. A roll call vote was taken with the final vote as follows: 8 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Marsh called for a motion to appoint Anthony G. Carter as Interim President & CEO and to negotiate his salary. Moved by Commissioner Brown-Russell; Supported by Commissioner Barrasso. A roll call vote was taken with the final vote as follows: 8 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session – N/A

Adjournment – Commissioner Marsh requested a motion to adjourn; Moved by Commissioner Major; supported by Commissioner Curtis. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.