

Downtown Development District Board of Commissioners Meeting
Ronald E. Gardner Board Room
December 3, 2024– 3:00 PM
In Person
201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 3912

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Chris Ross, Treasurer William Bradshaw, II, Secretary Scott Polakoff, Commissioner Miles Tully, Jr. Commissioner Ryan King, Commissioner David Piscola,

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Alex Glaser, Commissioner Gregory Curtis, Commissioner Kenny Rubenstein, Commissioner Frank Zumbo, Commissioner Edwin Murray,

Staff/Counsel Present: President & CEO Davon Barbour, Michael McKnight, CFO, Christophe Kane, Counsel, Adams & Reese,

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

Call for Public Input Cards: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

Action Items:

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024, Board Meeting – **Action Item***
Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Commissioner Piscola, second by Secretary Polakoff.
Motion carried.
- Approval of October 2024 Financial Report – **Action Item***
Motion to approve October 2024 Financial Report made by Treasurer Bradshaw, second by Commissioner Piscola.

Captain Lejon Roberts, 8th District Captain:

- Capt. Roberts mentioned a recent FBI tabletop exercise for the Super Bowl. He expressed confidence in the plan that is in place in partnership with the NFL, to ensure a successful event.
- He discussed the ongoing efforts to combat violent crime in the 8th District, highlighting a 19% decrease in violent crime and a 14% decrease in property crimes. He emphasized the importance of not tolerating lawlessness and the need to arrest and prosecute those responsible for violent acts.
- Capt. Roberts also mentioned the upcoming New Orleans Bowl, High School championship football games, New Year's Eve events, and the Super Bowl, stressing the need for increased security during these events.
- Capt. Roberts discussed the recent surge in violence in the 8th district, particularly around the Bayou Classic event. He detailed four incidents, including two shootings that occurred within an hour of each other, and a quadruple shooting that injured innocent bystanders. Capt. Roberts expressed confidence in solving these cases due to the availability of witnesses and video evidence. He emphasized the brazen nature of the perpetrators and the need to bring them to justice.

- Capt. Roberts also highlighted the overall reduction in violent crime in the district and citywide, and the ongoing efforts to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of these incidents. Capt. Roberts also addressed the issue of out-of-town groups bringing guns to events.

Michael Hecht, President & CEO of GNO, Inc.,

- Discussed the challenges of traffic and road closure around the city due to the upcoming Super Bowl Event. Public Transportation plans are in progress. Collaboration with GNOSF, GNO and RTA, is ongoing. Promotion of a Park- & Ride System will be communicated once it is prepared. GNO, Inc, is providing funds for bus and streetcar shelter repairs in the downtown area. He will start providing weekly updates on construction and road closures.
- 12 Murals are in process: Shepard Fairey will do a mural at the Marriott Canal Street, BMIKE on the HEAL Garage in Duncan Plaza, Carl Joe Williams on the Civil Courthouse at Poydras and Loyola, Becky Fos on Plaza Tower and Eternal Needs on the Hyatt Regency parking garage on Girod St.
- French Door Project which involves enhancing the 100 blocks of Canal, Dauphine, Bourbon, Burgundy, Chartres, Royal Streets and Decatur streets and street signs in the French Quarter.
- Quality of Life Sweeps which include illegal parking, illegal vending, permit compliance and noise violations.

Commissioner Tanisha Stevens, who oversees the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination, discussed the progress of the public safety outpost project, which is set to open in two weeks with a ribbon cutting in January. She also mentioned the possibility of utilizing funds from the US Attorney's office for the project. Commissioner Stevens also discussed the need for additional funding sources for the project.

Michael McKnight, CFO (complete financial report is in the board packet)

- **Revenue:**
 - YTD totaled \$9,674,337, and the YTD budget totaled \$6,837,434, which is a favorable variance of \$2,836,873. The revenue variance is associated with the ongoing collection of Ad Valorem Taxes by the City of New Orleans.
- **Expenses:**
 - **Overall Operating Expenses** YTD actual totaled \$7,700,763. YTD's budget totaled \$9,725,400, which is a positive variance of \$2,024,637.

Net Operating Income as of October 2024 totaled \$1,973,095.

- **Balance Sheet Analysis:**
 - **Current Assets**, which are comprised of Cash and Investments, totaled \$12,674,145, and Other Assets, which are primarily comprised of Accounts Receivable, Prepaid Expenses, and Fixed Assets, totaled \$2,820,022, with a combined balance of **\$15,494,167**.

President's report:

President & CEO provided an update on the following initiatives:

Landscaping:

- In partnership with Tulane University through an executed CEA, DDD is undertaking landscaping enhancements within the BioDistrict along Tulane Avenue. The project is funded using Wisner grant funds specifically awarded for BioDistrict beautification. There are additional projects pending BioDistrict funding award and CEA.

Business Attraction/Retention:

- President & CEO spoke of the successful events held on Canal Street, including the ribbon cutting for the Walk of Fame, and the annual tree lighting. He highlighted the importance of the Canal Street stakeholders meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024, at Sazerac House. He encouraged everyone to attend the Children's Hospital Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 7th at 11:00 a.m.
- 6th District B Clean-up Day is on 12/14/24.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Bradshaw, second by Commissioner Tully. Motion carried.