DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 4, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Ronald E. Gardner Board Room
201 St. Charles Ave., Suite 3912

Roll taken - Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Members Present: Board Chair Chris Ross, Shelby Russ, Kelly Parenton

Members Absent: Committee Chair (Board Vice-Chair) Alex Glaser, Commissioner Kenneth Rubenstein, Jasmine Brown, Stephanie Burks, Michael Siegel, Bennett Davis

Other Board Members Present:

Staff/Counsel Present: Charles Bourg, Donnie Clouse, John Roussell

Others Present: Capt. Palumbo, Lt. Damond Harris, 8th District**,,** Officer Alicia Pierre, NOPD, Mayte Hernandez, Travelers Aid, Captain Chris Morgan, and Ronald Furlow, Tulane Police, Troy Henry, Courtney Latiker, Rudy Courseault-Henry Consulting, Matt Wisdon, Baldwin Wingard, Civilized AI, J.T. Hannan, CSO NOENMCC

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

Public Input Card: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

NOPD update by Capt. Palumbo

- Violent Crime down 15%; Property crime down 23% in 8th district; increased office presence from 80 to 90+ improves enforcement.
- Police lead parking enforcement downtown issuing 1,800 citations weekly targeting illegal parking linked to narcotics.
- Daily sweeps on Canal Street at 8:00 a.m., noon and 4:00 p.m. to reduce outdoor sleeping by offering services and tracking repeat individuals.
- Weekend sweeps expanded to address vending violations, reckless driving and impound vehicles, improving public safety and order.
- Sweeps include extended hours and cover areas like RTA library zone.
- Narcotics enforcement focus on 100 block of Carondelet and 700-800 blocks of Canal.
- Coordination with ATC on liquor license enforcement aims to hold problem establishments accountable, though legislative gaps limit some actions.
- Discussed proposals to ban single-serve alcohol sales to reduce street drinking.
- Capt. Palumbo introduced new assistant commander Lt. Damond Harris

Note: In accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law (La. R.S. 42:11 et seq.) the Board of Commissioners of the DDD may go into Executive Session to discuss legal or personnel matters.

Charles Bourg, Public Safety & Operations:

- Over 4,565 blocks pressure washed and 3,964 weeded in two months; graffiti removal exceeds 1,014 tags.
- Sidewalk and plaza repairs underway; $449K Molly Marine Plaza contract awarded; unresolved $25K-$30K storm drain issue remains.
- Contractor services for holiday lighting and banner installations under RFP with 3 bidders aiming for contract approval in September.
- Landscaping contract renewal extended for 6 months. New RFP planned for early next year
- Sidewalk and tree maintenance contracts are managed by tracking through work orders.
- New on-call contractor RFP launched to cover various public works tasks including signage replacement, painting and storm drain cleaning.
- Allied private security contract entering 2nd year, renewal in January with positive performance reported.
- Ranger staffing at 17 with goal to grow to 20-25 for better outreach support.

Mayte Hernandez, Travelers Aid

- Case management team met 38 individuals in July including 21 new clients from various locations with 65 total encounters; services include housing placements, ID documentation, SNAP, health care appointments, mental health treatment, and detox referrals.
- There was success which involved housing and treatment for a 20-year old through coordinated efforts of case management and DDD Rangers
- Collaboration with quality-of-life officers and DDD Rangers boosts outreach effectiveness by providing timely assistance.
- New full-time case manager hiring underway to boost team capacity.

Notes:

- Delta Utilities and other service providers are responsible for repairing sidewalks and infrastructure after utility work, but some leftover issues remain unresolved.
- Recent work by contractors to repair damage from accidents and utility work shows progress with delays due to material sourcing.
- DDD maintains pressure on utility companies to fulfill repair obligations and keep infrastructure safe and visually consistent.

Adjournment: N/A

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