

Mid City Security District Minutes
Board Meeting of **August 16, 2023**, 6:00 P.M.
3803 Toulouse Street, New Orleans LA “The Cannery”

Chairwoman Wendy Laker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with a roll call of participants which established a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members present: Wendy Laker, Rick LoRusso, Robert Rivard, Darby Shields, Alvin Williams, and Charley Richard.

Presenters: Sgt. Alfred Russell, MCSD/NOPD Full Time Coordinator; Larry Jacobi, CPA, MCSD accountant; Scott Monistere and Korey Lewis, Sr. of Pinnacle Security.

Guests: Bob Simms and Ms. Jasmine.

➤ BOARD MINUTES

- W. Laker moved and Richard LoRusso seconded a motion to approve both the June 21, 2023, and the July 19, 2023 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. W. Laker moved that minor corrections of the date in the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes and removal of Sgt Russell as a presenter in the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes be made. R. Rivard seconded and the motion was accepted unanimously.

➤ FINANCIAL REPORT

- The issue of fraud in the checking account was thoroughly discussed. The check (#1676) to Bourgeois Bennett LLC dated June /19/2023 had been stolen, altered, and was attempted to be cashed. The Bank stopped payment and there will be no loss to the MCSD; however, the bank has provided two options for the organization; either close the account and start a new account or else change our account to a “Positive Proof” account which would require verification for checks to be cashed. There is a cost to using a “Positive Proof” account and since we have insurance to cover this type of issue, it may not be necessary. D. Shields motioned that we sign up for the “Positive Proof” account and then simply cancel this extra cost after one month if it was discovered that we could rely on insurance to cover any losses. R. LoRusso seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- The June and July 2023 Bank Statements were approved and initialed by all Board members.
- June checks had already been paid but were read into the minutes as: \$24,234.93 to Pinnacle Security for patrol services; \$6,000 to Bourgeois Bennett LLC for the 2022 audit; \$1,673.74 to Adams and Reese; \$5,486.25 to Graphix Matter; \$874.26 to Lawrence Jacobi; and EFT of \$130.90 to Verizon.
- L. Jacobi requested Board approval of July monthly bills (\$1,581.25 to Graphix Matter for website and media work; \$24,559.14 to Pinnacle for patrol services for 7/8/23 through 8/5/2023 periods; \$1,254.00 to Adams & Reese; \$770.00 for CPA Lawrence Jacobi; \$6,000 to Bourgeois Bennett LLC for the 2022 audit to replace the stolen check; \$270.00 to OPSE; and EFT of \$74.62 to Verizon. All checks were approved with a motion by W. Laker which was seconded by R. Rivard and approved unanimously.
- L. Jacobi presented the Financial Statements. Discussed were the Profit and Loss for January through July 2023 versus same period 2022; Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2023, versus same period 2022; and Profit and Loss Budget verses Actual for January through July 2023.
- Discussion was held concerning the upcoming budget for 2024. L. Jacobi noted that the budget would have to be published in the official journal as required by state law at least twice although it was planned to publish three times (9/3, 9/10 and 9/20) to make sure MCSD is in compliance. The budget would then be discussed at the September MCSD board meeting.

W. Laker moved that we proceed with this plan. R. LoRusso seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. A proposed budget for 2024 was circulated which compared the Revenue and Expenses to the 2022 Budget, the 2022 Actual, the 2023 Budget, the YTD 2023 (July 2023), and the Projected Actual 2023.

- It was further noted that MCSD insurance policies expire on 8/24/23 but that Gallagher (insurance broker) would provide the actual cost for renewal and any change in the companies offering the policies.

➤ CRIME REPORTS

- Korey Lewis with Pinnacle Security provided a PowerPoint presentation of monthly activities as well as a summary of patrol reports. Scott Monistere presented a letter from Pinnacle in response to the officer involved shooting while working for the New Orleans library at their main branch. The letter discusses how Pinnacle will strengthen their hiring procedures and the monitoring of officer activities. The letter is attached as Addendum 1.
- Sgt. Russel provided crime reports for each week since the previous meeting along with details of the significant issues. Discussion followed regarding specifics within the reports.

➤ COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Vehicle Report. It was noted that two vehicles were in the shop, one of them for the fifth time. W. Laker moved to take the vehicle to a private repair shop to get the unit back into service. A. Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Outreach. Discussion ensued regarding social media presentation of MCSD data which thus far has been positive. It was noted that we are now on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly twitter) and YouTube.
- By Laws and Legislation. It was noted that the resolution by the City Council had been completed and that the election would be held in November for the previously passed legislation. It was noted that our legal counsel should be present at the September meeting to ensure that MCSD is following the rules regarding educating the public concerning the legislative proposal.

➤ NEW BUSINESS

- Bob Simms of SDT Productions offered a presentation on the potential use of an MCSD app that would be similar to the app used in other parts of the city. A thorough discussion followed which indicated that the annual cost would be \$5,000 per year although we could get a couple of months of trial usage. A mock-up of the app had been circulated to board members who were able to see the usefulness of the app in providing information to the public as well as offering the public a way to alert authorities to crimes in progress. The app uses GPS to provide actual locations of callers and potential crimes. Scott Monistere was asked if Pinnacle officers would be able to integrate the app with their patrols and he said that they would not. After discussion, the board offered the concept of studying its efficacy and bringing it up for a vote at the next meeting.
- Michael Jarrett who had conducted the social media campaign had requested for a year of payment for Google Workspace and Mail Chimp. Google Workspace is no longer used since we have the new social media contract conducting that operation and Mail Chimp is paid directly by the CPA. After discussion it was noted that R. Rivard would write a letter for the secretary to sign asking for a refund of the unused monies.
- The concept of cameras and sponsorship for them from Project NOLA in the 3900 block of Ulloa was discussed. It was noted that D. Shields would report next month on the issue after considering a number of possibilities.

- It was noted that MCSD should start preparing material for use on social media, mailers, etc. with regard to the upcoming election for the MCSD legislative proposal in an effort to provide education to the public prior to the November 18 ballot.
- W. Laker asked for public input. Ms. Jasmine provided concerns and complaints about Pinnacle and how she has been treated.
- W. Laker offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by R. Rivard. There was no opposition.

CERTIFICATE As Secretary of the Mid-City Security District, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes duly and legally adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mid-City Security District, after due notice, and that said minutes have not been rescinded. WITNESS, my signature, this 20th day of September, 2023.



Charley Richard, Secretary

Addendum 1

Scott Monistere

From: Chad Perez
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Chad Perez
Cc: David Myers; Scott Monistere
Subject: Pinnacle Response to Recent Incident

Good Morning,

I hope this email finds you well. We are reaching out to you because we want to provide a brief update on our response to a recent incident involving one of our Armed Security Officers while working a client site. You likely heard or have seen a report about an incident where one of our Security Officers discharged her firearm during the course of duty, resulting in the arrest of the officer. The news has reported minimal information, much of which was misleading. This is an ongoing investigation by authorities, so we can't comment on what happened during the incident, but want to take this opportunity to provide a few facts and update you on our response.

We can tell you that the officer was properly licensed with the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners. The LSBPSE completed an FBI Criminal Background check of the officer, which is done with every security officer application, and cleared her to be issued an armed security license. Pinnacle followed all the necessary protocols to in the officer's licensing and compliance process. The officer received firearms training, as well as training on our company policies related to Use of Force and the Use of Force Continuum. We can't speak to the officer's actions, only to say that it's an unfortunate situation and we're still learning more each day.

In our Leadership Team meeting this week we discussed our response to this incident. As a result, we have decided to send every armed security officer that works for our company through a re-fresher training on our Use of Force Policies, Use of Force Continuum, and additional topics related to de-escalation, and legal aspects. This is a heavy undertaking and will take time to get everyone through, but we will begin that training within the next week. We also identified an additional background service that will provide us with information related to prior arrest histories of all applicants, even if that arrest didn't result in a conviction. In addition, we will soon implement an assessment designed to better inform hiring managers of any concerns related to the applicant being issued an armed license. While the current process for licensing has been adequate, these new procedures will provide added benefit in the hiring and licensing process. While all current officers that are licensed have passed an FBI Criminal Background check by the LSBPSE, we will take the extra step of running all current officers through this new process as well.

We have been in touch with the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners. We support his effort to improve the training and background requirements of the LSBPSE, and the Executive Director has expressed interest in having some of our Pinnacle Team members use their experience and expertise in the future to assist with developing those improvements.

Our security officers work hard each day to provide service to our clients, in situations that often become very dangerous. While they face those challenges each day, we want you to have confidence that we are deploying the best qualified security officers to handle those challenges in a professional manner. The goal is that our response to this incident and the improvements we're making provides you with that added confidence.

As always, myself and our management team are available to meet or answer any questions you may have about our overall process or your individual account.

Regards,
Chad