

Today's Downtown Police Special Assessment District Advisory Committee Meeting did not have a quorum. Previously, the Committee had requested several guests appear and make presentations at today's meeting. To accommodate these guests, the presentations were given to committee members and members of the public who attended the meeting. No action was taken on these presentations.

CITY OF RENO
DOWNTOWN POLICE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES
June 18, 2014

Members

Steve Foster, Chairman (786.5700, fosters@eldoradoreno.com)
Dave Bennett, Vice Chairman (325.7394, dbennett@silverlegacy.com)
Deputy Chief Tom Robinson (334.2197, Fax 334.3890, robinsont@reno.gov)
Lieutenant Amy Newman (657.4613, Fax 334.3890, newmana@reno.gov)
Darrell Clifton (328.9398, Fax 328.9278, DClifton@circusreno.com)
Jim Gallaway (852.0250, jimgallaway@hotmail.com)
Larry Garrison (788.2743, lgarrison@caesars.com)
Greg Landrus (323.4554, Fax 323.4589, gnlandrus@yahoo.com)
Randy Riley (788.2725, rariley@caesars.com)
Chief Marshal Justin Roper (334.1254, Fax 334.1260, roperj@reno.gov)

I. ROLL CALL

Chairman Steve Foster called the meeting to order and requested a roll call.

Committee Members Present: Darrell Clifton, Chairman Steve Foster, Jim Gallaway, Larry Garrison, and Lieutenant Amy Newman

Also Present: Commander Shannon Wiecking, Sergeant Brian Dye, Sergeant Dan Thompson, Council Member Jenny Brekhus, Alexis Hill, Zac Haffner, Deputy City Attorney Rob Bony, Marnell Heinz, Leslie Griffin, Brian Bonnenfant, Steve Hardesty, Scott Kelley, Malieka Landis, Eugenia Larmore, Heidi Adkins, Judith Peres, Frank Partlow, and Alex Woodley.

Absent: Vice Chairman Dave Bennett, Greg Landrus, Randy Riley, Deputy Chief Tom Robinson, and Chief Marshal Justin Roper.

There was no quorum present. Deputy City Attorney Rob Bony noted that since it was 12:05 and there was no quorum for today's meeting, we could proceed with items that are presentations but that we could not do any action items on the agenda. We also have the choice of calling the meeting but we have presenters here from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) that we may want to give their presentation today so that we do not inconvenience those individuals. Chairman Foster was in favor of hearing the presentations.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.

Chairman Foster inquired if there was public comment. Frank Partlow was going to wait until the VII. New Business (1) item came up but because it was an action item he wanted to make mention that there are a bunch of new people who will be paying taxes or will be in June in fairly significant amounts into the special assessment district. It is only fair to them since they are new to show what they are getting for this extra money. A Welcome Packet goes part of the way to doing that but access to whatever services that are offered is something else. If access simply means that you call the same number as everybody else does to get police services, you have to ask yourself, “Why am I paying all of this extra money when all I am getting is the services that everybody else has?” Chairman Foster inquired if there was additional Public Comment. There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (For Possible Action) – May 21, 2014.

Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that since there was no quorum no action could be taken on the approval of the minutes.

IV. MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS (The items in this section are not for action and if action is desired the item will be placed on a future agenda and designated “For Possible Action.”)

A. Chairman Report – Chairman Steve Foster

- Update on the progress of the Regional Alliance for Downtown (RAD).

Darrell Clifton informed the group that RAD will start getting into the panhandling issue and looking at some nontraditional solutions like enforcing the littering law. Mr. Clifton informed the group that he has invited police to attend the next meeting so that these ideas can be run past them. RAD is also working with Alex Woodley on Code issues downtown and the condition of the alleys. Jim Gallaway informed the group that several business owners brought up a possible issue with whether the police were showing up in court or by their absence were causing cases to be dismissed. Mr. Gallaway inquired what the policy was for the district for officers being in court when someone has been arrested. Commander Shannon Wiecking informed the group that officers have to show up for court when they have been subpoenaed for it. Sometimes they get put on standby but do not get called in until they are needed. This would depend on the defense and the prosecutor determining where they want to go with the case. Lieutenant Amy Newman informed the group that there is also follow up and internal investigations should an officer be on standby and not report to court. Deputy City Attorney Bony explained the legal remedy that if an officer is subpoenaed and doesn't show up the judge can have an Order to Show Cause Hearing to bring that officer in and determine why they were not there. There are systems in place that should stop this from happening but Deputy City Attorney Bony was unsure what the numbers were where this was occurring. The first three words of a subpoena are “We Command You” not come if you want. Police are well trained to take this seriously and have a good process that they go through. Mr. Clifton informed the group that he has received letters asking you to appear. It was unknown if this was the same process used with police. Mr. Clifton informed the group that in the one case Mr. Gallaway was talking about the City

Attorney stated that the officer did not show up so they needed to move for dismissal. Deputy City Attorney Bony reiterated that there is a process for when an officer does not show up. This is reviewed and evaluated and handled. Mr. Gallaway informed the group of another aspect with this situation. A gentleman informed him that when in Colorado Springs, he could have a citizen's arrest at the same time if the police officer did not show. It was unsure if this worked in Reno or not. Deputy City Attorney Bony was unsure of the answer to this as he is not in the Criminal Division but he thought that they would be managing their cases as they deem appropriate. This was the first that he has heard any issues but he thinks that police have in place a system of checks and balances where if they are subpoenaed they show up and if they don't show up then an investigation is done.

B. Police Report – Deputy Chief Tom Robinson, Lieutenant Amy Newman, Sergeant Brian Dye, Sergeant Dan Thompson

- Update on solutions and on-going enforcement at special assessment district locations.
- Identification of future Police Report agenda items.

Lieutenant Newman informed the group that Sergeant Dan Thompson was nominated and selected for Sergeant of the Bid for the last six months. Sergeant Thompson is involved in several different processes outside of the SAD expansion. He is on the Awards Committee, a SWAT Supervisor, and he goes through the whole spectrum of his engagement with the community and the organization.

Sergeant Thompson informed the group that we are seeing an increase in activity in and around the parks in regards to vagrancy issues and open containers. They are actively addressing the panhandling issue with plain clothes operations to enforce the panhandling ordinance. There has been a huge increase in the amount of drug arrests within the downtown area ranging from heroin to misdemeanor to marijuana possession. There is also a recent trend with people not so much resisting arrests but not wanting to go along with the program during their contacts. Sergeant Thompson shared about a deceased person in Bicentennial Park and no one noticing them for about 3 hours. They received some awesome documentation from Steve Hardesty regarding the expansion of SAD. They will be moving forward with neighbor contacts once the expansion goes into effect July 1. Other than this, it has been status quo. They have two new officers coming aboard.

Sergeant Brian Dye informed the group that he met with Parks a few weeks back regarding the slack line. This actually damages the trees and there is an ordinance about affixing objects to the trees. They talked about getting some signs posted and about changing some of the hours of the parks. The Bike Team shift ends at 11:00 p.m. and a lot of the parks don't close until 10:00 p.m. so in some of the problem areas they are hoping to bump this to 9:00 p.m. to allow time to enforce. They have done an educational sweep for a week where they advised those tying up a slack line of the ordinance and that they would be taking enforcement action. Parks are heating up. They have a new PTZ camera at 4th and Virginia. They have been catching people using marijuana and drinking. Current stationary cameras will be swapped for a PTZ. Once the ones are installed by Brick Park, this should help. Mr. Gallaway had two questions. The first question was if the

communication letter on the expansion district would be brought to this committee before sending out. Sergeant Thompson informed the group that this was not a letter that they were sending out but rather that they will be going door to door to let people know who they are and find out if there are issues. Mr. Gallaway inquired if Mr. Hardesty was sending a letter. The answer was no. This is something that we can't act on but that this committee requested along with a separate or additional phone number for the SAD residents. It was thought that the Communications Department would be working on this. Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that this was an action item and we would not be taking any action on it today. Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that the City Manager's Office has taken interest in the Welcome Packet and supports that idea. They will be working with appropriate City staff to have something done. At that point in time, it could either be brought back to this committee for review or the City Manager can take the initiative and send the packet out on his own. They do support the idea. They like that this group thought of it. They would like to get it out sooner rather than later because July 1 is coming up in a couple of weeks. We will not take action on this item today but it is on the radar of the City Manager's Office. This group does not have the authority to direct City staff to do things. There is a process to go through. This is why the City Manager has taken interest in the item because the City Manager can ask staff members to do things. Mr. Gallaway requested that the City Manager's Office email us an informal copy for comment. Deputy City Attorney Bony explained that you could run into serial communications which are against the Open Meeting Law. When something is sent out to a quorum of this membership and comments get provided, you are conducting a meeting over the internet which runs into an Open Meeting Law violation. Council Member Jenny Brekhus informed the group that she did bring up this item to the City Manager. It was thought that there was a gap in the follow through but they do know that this committee had discussed and recommended it be done. It will go out. The concept that was discussed here was to let people know that they were in the district and this is when we have meetings hoping that some new people would show up and take an interest. Then the committee could consider changing the ordinance in regards to representation. It is a good thing to get out there since this is a forum for citizens who are within the SAD rather than come to Council or an Open Meeting or write a letter to the manager they can come and flesh these issues out here. Hopefully, the letter when it does go out can be a generator to help this body work and be an overseer of the district. It was unsure if this letter would be run by Council Member Brekhus before it goes out. Deputy City Attorney Bony reiterated that the City Manager's Office was supportive of the idea, liked the idea and wanted to see that it happens sooner rather than later. Mr. Gallaway also requested that from a resident's viewpoint another phone number should be included. Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that this would be something that City staff would evaluate.

Mr. Gallaway inquired if we had stopped the feeding of the homeless by Barbara Bennett Park a few years ago. It was discussed that a group still feeds the homeless there. Mr. Gallaway shared that he ran into homeless being fed next to the Lehr Theater. It seems that we are actually drawing in the homeless. It was inquired who could be talked to so that people could be directed to the proper location to be fed. Sergeant Thompson informed the group that a flyer had been created from the Community Action Office (CAO) that requested that the agencies coordinate with Volunteers of America to centralize the distribution of

food. Alex Woodley informed the group that a new committee has been created specifically for downtown and along the river walk. The first meeting was last week. Next month they will have another meeting and this issue which causes a negative impact along the river will be on the agenda to discuss. They will get feedback from those actually in the downtown area. It was inquired if there were any residents on this committee. The answer was yes. Council Member Brekhus inquired if the legal issues surrounding this had been looked into. Other cities have dealt with this issue and there have been issues regarding the right to feed people. Deputy City Attorney Bony thought that it sounded like this was occurring in parks so it might be an issue that parks has looked at. Alex Woodley informed the group that what he has seen is not so much prohibiting but rather information that these are the locations it is allowed and that it must be organized by permit. Deputy City Attorney Bony suggested that this be worked out with Julie Conway. Another spot that feeds the homeless is the Apostolic Church on Washington Street. This falls into the expanded area.

C. Financial Report & Expenditures/Revenue – Zac Haffner

- Review, explanation, and discussion of May financial reports.

Zac Haffner informed the group that he would take any questions. Mr. Haffner informed the group that after looking at revenues they are coming in higher this year from both the Downtown Police SAD and the Downtown Maintenance District. They do expect changes when the new areas are outlined. Overall we are as usual.

D. Special Events Report – Alexis Hill

- Review, explanation, and discussion of previous and upcoming special events as they apply to the Downtown Police Special Assessment District.
- Presentation and discussion on the economic impact to the City of Reno by the 2013 Santa Crawl special event as presented by the University of Nevada, Reno.

The spreadsheet for June and July was sent out. Since there were no questions, Alexis Hill introduced UNR to go over the 2013 Reno Santa Pub Crawl Economic Impact Statistics as requested by this committee. This report was accepted by the Reno City Council. Malieka Landis, Brian Bonnenfant, and Eugenia Larmore presented PowerPoints on three sections including: descriptive statistics and how data was collected, economic impacts, and fiscal impacts. The PowerPoints and handouts were posted to the City of Reno calendar for today's meeting along with being sent to the City Clerk for any distribution.

Discussion ensued regarding why the survey did not correspond with the times of the event. Ms. Landis informed the group that they were there early so that they had enough time to survey people in a sober status. People are more willing to participate early in an event and that a representative sample was obtained. It was thought that in the future, pre-gaming elsewhere then showing up at 9:00 p.m. could be looked at.

Ms. Landis discussed that the surveyors were all over downtown. They used the event map to place people and moved around. It was felt that with the police presence the surveyors could feel free to move around in their areas.

Sergeant Thompson inquired what percentage of those surveyed actually participated in the crawl. Ms. Landis explained that there was 62% participation which was lower than other events. One theory for the lower participation was that with a pub crawl, there is no advocacy that is a common thread. Mr. Partlow informed the group that his theory was that people wanted to binge drink and that it was deplorable that the City regardless of the economic impact would promote this event.

Mr. Clifton inquired if there was anything further on the merchant/vendor surveys. Ms. Landis noted that this was just a small focus group used to sample opinions. Mr. Bonnenfont would inform the group about the economic impact.

It was inquired if the information regarding the economic impact was gleaned from the survey. This was confirmed.

It was inquired if the net positive to the City was \$6,000.00. Ms. Larmore confirmed that this was approximately correct with the revenues that they were able to quantify. There were a lot of other sources that they did not put a number on.

It was inquired if this report took into account emergency room (ER) visits that were unpaid, hospital, or REMSA services. This was not taken into account since REMSA it was thought is funded through Washoe County unless there are City of Reno finances involved somehow. It was discussed that there were a lot of fights where people might have gone to the ER and might not have paid their bill. Ms. Larmore informed the group that this was not accounted for and that they only looked at the budget impact on the City of Reno. It was also inquired if the survey included the economic impact generated by the number of medical calls that the Reno Fire Department (RFD) responded to as specifically from City of Reno. Mr. Bonnenfont informed the group that if the RFD and REMSA service call data could be provided they would be happy to put this in the report and adjust the numbers.

Council Member Brekhus inquired where the numbers came from for the \$40,000.00. Alexis Hill informed the group that these came from her Special Events budget. She reimburses different City departments for their costs for special events. These costs come in about a month after the event via project code. The fire department, public works, and police would have contributed numbers to the Santa Crawl Event.

Mr. Gallaway noted that the impact for the City was positive though not a lot. We are also trying to make the private business sector improve. Mr. Gallaway inquired how much profit was given to the private sector. Ms. Larmore informed the group that they did not have profit numbers but with the economic impact analysis they look at how much the purchase is and the output generated by local businesses increased as the result of it. This is the amount that the visitors brought in and spent directly. Mr. Gallaway also noted that one thing not presented in the numbers that he read in the report was that the school district benefitted \$57,000.00. Ms. Larmore informed the group that they calculated impacts on the school district in Washoe County and even the City of Sparks because they receive a portion of all the sales tax revenue collected within the County. Various districts receive C-Tax revenue as well.

Mr. Partlow noted that they mentioned that there was unquantifiable positive economic impact that could not be measured. Mr. Partlow mentioned that he had heard at least 20 negative unquantifiable economic impacts that you cannot measure. The focus is on the City of Reno. It was suggested that there are economic impacts to other entities from the activities of this negative economic impact from this event.

V. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT – Council Member Jenny Brekhus

- Update and discussion of actions taken or being considered by City Council.
(The Council Liaison Report may be taken out of order.)

Council Member Brekhus informed the group that the Virginia Bridge Project was still uncertain as to when it would happen. Marnell Heinz, Operations Street Manager, informed the group that it was still up in the air as they were still looking for approval through the Army Corps of Engineers for permitting. There is a backlog for them but it should be moving forward hopefully, in the spring. There is the possibility of utility relocations this fall. This should have a minor impact for traffic. None of the special events have been changed across the bridge so there is minor impact for utility relocation.

Council Member Brekhus informed the group that the ice rink would be moving to the baseball stadium area which is within the special assessment district.

A very emergent issue is happening with communities along the Inner Continental Railroad Line. They are becoming concerned with the transport of natural gas and its flammability coming to the refineries in California. They are starting to look into the passing of regulations for these types of transports due to concerns with crashes along railroad corridors. Some California jurisdictions want to know the volume and what is travelling. Council Member Brekhus will bring this to the Council's attention. It is an issue for concern for emergency responders along these corridors. It might also be a concern with those who own property along the railroad tracks. This is being portrayed as a right to know issue for responders. It also crosses governance levels because of a movement within railroad administration to provide safety with transports improvements.

Mr. Gallaway inquired if Par Tolles had been approved by Council to be on this committee as the RAD appointed representative. It was discussed that Mr. Tolles' approval is on an upcoming Council Agenda.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and possible recommendations to City Council regarding parking meters in the downtown corridor. *[On-going item]*
 - Council Member Jenny Brekhus and/or Kurt Dietrich

It was decided that the report for this item could be heard but that no action would be taken since presenters for this item were at the meeting. Leslie Griffin informed the group that there were 864 new meters on the street with the hope of getting back up to the original 1200 that they had before the Curb System was installed. They have hired two permanent Parking Meter Technicians. They

started June 6 and have the ability to write citations, collect, and maintain the meters. The three CSO I's are transferring over from the police department. They will continue to do citation enforcement and abandoned vehicles. They will be getting uniforms. They are preparing to go out for RFP for a citation management and enforcement program. They are 75% complete on the lowering of the poles. They are just waiting on additional double yokes to finish up with this project. Mr. Gallaway inquired if there would be a monthly, quarterly, financial report that would go to Council to show revenue coming in versus the expenses on the parking meters. Ms. Griffin informed the group that this could be provided. It was noted that previously we were not getting any monies from fines and Mr. Gallaway wondered if this would be a positive impact to the City's revenue. Mr. Heinz informed the group that one of the processes that they will be going through is that they will get connected with DMV so that when people do not pay their citations and have received multiple warnings they will have to pay the fines before they are allowed to register their vehicle. This is similar to California and puts some teeth into the enforcement. This is a big step forward. It was inquired what the date would be for this. There was no specific date but it is in the works. Council Member Brekhus will request a more robust update for Council for the coin component. We have debt on these parking meters due to medium term obligations. It was thought that the revenue coming from the citations was important as well going forward.

2. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and potential recommendations to the Director of the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the City of Reno regarding options for improving the perception of the downtown area. *[On-going item]*

This item was not discussed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and potential recommendations to the Office of Communications and Community Engagement and/or the City Council regarding the creation of a Special Assessment District Welcome Packet which may include information on the Downtown Police Special Assessment District Advisory Committee membership, meeting dates and times, and its boundaries.

This item was not discussed.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Identification of agenda items for July 16, 2014, meeting.
(This item is for identification of agenda items and there will be no action taken until such items are listed on future agenda as an action item.)

Council Member Brekhus suggested adding an item regarding the feeding of the homeless in the parks. Discussion was held and it was decided that Alex Woodley was already working on this via another committee and we would wait to hear an update from him.

Council Member Brekhus inquired if there was an update regarding the volunteers and UNR students. Commander Wiecking informed the group that the revenues

were coming in from the SAD in August. We still plan to have the walking units but there is no further information. It would be good to have this firmed up so that when people ask, we have a plan as to how the monies are being used. We will be keeping the walking and we would count on the Downtown Enforcement Team (DET) to tell us where any attention should be focused. Deputy Chief Venzon is working on the Reserves and Deputy Chief Robinson is working on the downtown portion. The Chief will determine what things to work on.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION

Noon, July 16, 2014, at 1 E. 1st Street, (City Hall) 7th Floor, Caucus Room, Reno, NV 89501.

Chairman Foster informed the group of the next meeting date.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – This item is for general public comment.

Chairman Foster inquired if there was Public Comment. There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. (For possible Action)

There being nothing further, Chairman Foster dismissed the group.