MINUTES

DOWNTOWN POLICE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 • 12:00 PM

Reno City Hall, One East First Street, 7th Floor, Caucus Room, Reno, NV 89501

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

Chairman Darrell Clifton called the meeting to order and requested a roll call.

Committee members present: Chairman Darrell Clifton, Vice Chairman Jeff Siri, Lieutenant Joe Robinson, Chief Marshal Gregg Deighton, Joe Bickett, Steve Foster, Jim Gallaway, Guy Hyder, Fady Mehanna

Also present: Sergeant Dan Bond, Sergeant Anthony Elges, Sergeant Laura Conklin, Rod Turlan

Absent: Par Tolles, Deputy Chief Mac Venzon

Chairman Clifton verified that there was a quorum. This was confirmed.

II. Public Comment (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

Chairman Clifton requested any Public Comment. There was none.

III. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

Chairman Clifton requested a motion to approve today’s agenda. Jim Gallaway made the motion. Steve Foster seconded. There being no opposition, the agenda was approved.

Lieutenant Joe Robinson arrived.

IV. Approval of Minutes (For Possible Action) – November 15, 2017 and December 20, 2017.

Chairman Clifton requested a motion to approve the minutes from November 15, 2017 and December 20, 2017 saying one motion would be used to approve both sets of minutes. Jim
Gallaway made the motion. Steve Foster seconded. There being no opposition, the minutes were approved.

V. Members and Staff Reports (Items for general announcements and informational items only. No deliberation or action will be taken on these items.)

A. Chairman Report – Chairman Darrell Clifton

There was no Chairman report.

B. Regional Alliance for Downtown (RAD) Report – Par Tolles

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

Par Tolles was not present. Chairman Clifton reminded the group that the RAD meeting was scheduled for tomorrow.

C. Business Improvement District (BID) – Jeff Limpert

- Update on the progress of the Business Improvement District (BID) as it applies to the Downtown Police Special Assessment District.

Chairman Clifton gave a brief update saying they had reached 51% of the vote already but were still hoping for more votes. They were forming the Board and the application for it was on the RAD website and they were still looking for some residents. He said they went to the Apple opening today where they broke ground for their new facility at 5th and Evans. There was a new developer buying some Motels on West Street and Mr. Jacobs was moving forward with his proposed project. He said they do see an impact in the casino’s already as a result of this project.

D. Police Report – Deputy Chief Mac Venzon, Lieutenant Joe Robinson, Sergeant Tony Elges, Sergeant Daniel Bond and Sergeant Laura Conklin

- Update on solutions and on-going enforcement at special assessment district locations.
- Update on the expansion or creation of enforcement programs within the special assessment district.
- Review, explanation, and discussion of three-month downtown area comparison statistics.
- Identification of future Police Report agenda items.

Lieutenant Robinson said they are still working on the CAC which is a long term process. He said they might see some beneficial changes over there in the next couple of months. The Motel Improvement Team had their first Crime Free Hotel/Motel training course which was hosted by Chairman Clifton and the Circus Circus. They had about fifty to sixty owners/managers/staff members from local motels and hotels in attendance. He said they received a day’s worth of courses in things like how to better manage their property, crime indicators, a class on Code Enforcement and what was and was not acceptable and information on drug recognition from the Narcotics unit. It was a great turnout and he feels it was very beneficial. This was phase one of the long term project. Then the Crime Free Multi Housing, for apartments was up next. Lieutenant Robinson said they have a meeting scheduled with the residents of the Montage on the
30th at 5pm. This is a follow up to the Shooting incident that occurred at the Montage. Deputy Chief Venzon and members from the Sparks Police Department Detective Division will be there. Vice Chairman Siri asked if there was more gang activity going on downtown in the last few days or was this just normal, because he is seeing a lot of people wearing red. Sergeant Bond said there was no increase that he was aware of.

Chairman Clifton asked for some background information on the recent shooting that had occurred at 3rd and Virginia Streets. Mr. Turlan said he wanted to comment on RPD’s response time to the scene saying it was incredible, it was about sixty seconds and very impressive. He said he has noticed a lot more drug activity downtown and believes this shooting was probably drug related. Lieutenant Robinson said it was possibly drug related and their response time was a direct result of the Downtown Walking Team actually being right there when it occurred and they had the suspect in custody within five to ten minutes. He said this was still an open investigation but he would talk about what he knew. The two acquaintances (the suspect and the victim) knew each other and it was not a random act of violence. A shooting did take place and he thinks three shots were fired and they struck the victim. There were others in and around the victim and suspect throughout the day and thanks to their partnerships with all of the businesses they were able to track down video immediately. All of this led to the quick capture of the suspect as well as them being right there at the time. He asked if there were other questions. Chairman Clifton said he would like to talk about what they could do to prevent something like this from happening again.

Sergeant Conklin said they were not even really in the El Dorado, one was coming North bound and the other was coming South bound so it was hard to say if there was any way to prevent something like this from happening again. It was all very quick and she thanked the El Dorado for coming up with the video so quickly. She explained that due to the partnerships that they have developed they were able to go right over to the 3rd Streets Flats and were able to get the suspect on video there as well. Mr. Turlan said he viewed the video and saw that the suspect was wearing a heavy jacket with his hood pulled over on him and it was fifty degrees outside. He asked if that was something they would find unusual and or suspicious. Lieutenant Robinson answered saying there would have to be another action along with that before they could stop and detain him. They have to reasonably believe that a crime has been committed, is being committed or will be committed. He said he believes they are years ahead of safety in downtown Reno compared to where they were five years ago. There are anywhere from eight to twelve Officers patrolling downtown Reno twenty four hours a day seven days a week and there was also five Walking Officers and fourteen Bike Officers. Downtown Reno he said was the most heavily patrolled area in the entire City of Reno so there really is nothing they could have done to prevent this from happening. Lieutenant Robinson was asked how old the victim is, he’s in his late thirties.

Mr. Gallaway asked if the Police have gotten together with the management of the Palladio yet to update them on procedures like they did with the Montage and the other condo’s downtown. Lieutenant Robinson said that was their long term plan to get with the management of all the residences. Sergeant Conklin explained saying they do this once a year. The Downtown Walking Team has a spread sheet with the name of every business, every manager, and everyone who works at any business downtown who has given them their information. Then once a year they talk to each of them and make sure their information is accurate. They also update and add any new businesses that open up.
Lieutenant Robinson addressed everyone in the room saying if there was anything they felt the Police could do better to please call him, they all have his phone number. Mr. Turlan once again wanted to commend them on how fast their response was saying a year or two ago they probably would not have caught the suspect.

Mr. Gallaway asked if the shelters were full. Sergeant Bond said no not to capacity the past couple of nights. Mr. Gallaway said he asked because last night in front of the Wild River Grille they were setting up a whole community, they even blocked it off with shopping carts. Sergeant Conklin asked him for more details on this.

Chairman Clifton said he had noticed a big increase in syringes everywhere. They picked up hundreds of them from behind the Ball room and heard yesterday the Ball Park has a bunch over in the left field. Lieutenant Robinson said they are seeing this increase as well. Just last month the Downtown Enforcement Team made fifty six felony arrests and most of those were drug related. Sergeant Conklin said part of the issue was that “Hopes” does not do a needle exchange they just give out more needles. But they are trying to combat that by giving them syringe containers to put their used syringes in and they have a free needle drop off available twenty four hours a day. She said it was also no longer a crime to have a hypodermic device. Mr. Turlan said his concern is they have a lot of children’s events and they do not want a child to see and pick up a needle.

Lieutenant Robinson said they could contact him when they have these events scheduled and they will get it cleaned up. Sergeant Elges said as a long term solution they have talked with Code Enforcement about writing a requirement into their Business License that although they are providing these services legally they also have a requirement to put in place some sort of pick up, and not just the twenty four hour needle drop off, and to actually go out and be proactive in the community where they are distributing these items. Hopefully this will decrease what they are seeing. Lieutenant Robinson said if they send them a list with dates of their scheduled events then they will help make it look nice and will increase the Bike and Walking Teams presence in that area.

- Review, explanation, and discussion of financial reports and tracking of additional revenues due to the expansion as they apply to the Downtown Police Special Assessment District.

Vicki VanBuren was not present.

F. 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.

Alexis Hill was not present. Chairman Clifton said Alexis Hill asked if they needed her to come to every meeting and he told her no but if they had any events coming up they would invite her so this item will stay on the agenda

VI. Comments and Announcements from Council Liaison – Councilmember Paul McKenzie
(This item may be taken out of order.)

Councilmember McKenzie was not present.
VII. Old Business

None.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Other Business

1. Identification of items to be placed on a future agenda of the Downtown Police Special Assessment District Advisory Committee. (For Discussion and/or Potential Action).

There were no additional Agenda items.

X. Next Regular Meeting Date and Location

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 • 12:00 PM, Reno City Hall, 1 East First Street, 7th Floor, Caucus Room, Reno, NV 89501.

Chairman Clifton informed the group of the next meeting date and time.

XI. Public Comment (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

Chairman Clifton requested Public Comment. There was none.

XII. Adjournment (For possible Action)

Chairman requested a motion to adjourn. Steve Foster made the motion. Lieutenant Joe Robinson seconded. There being no opposition, the meeting was adjourned.