



## Meeting Minutes

**When:** December 9, 2015 -5:45-6pm Meet & Greet, 6-7pm Meeting

**Where:** Ochsner Baptist Cafeteria

**In attendance: Board Members:** Kellie Grengs, Om Ingram, Garret Majoue, Geoff Mitchell, Brady Shannon. **Guests:** Joseph Guedniern Cate Swinburnm Leah Antin, Carla Mitchell, Sara Bradford, Gregory Ensslen, Officer Edgar Staehle, Officer B. Francois, Babahinde Ogulola, Samuel Berman, Chip Apperson, Janelle Slobof, Neal Cohen, Linda Seabright, Courtney Buckley, Bryan Brown, Joey Frederick, Bryon Cornelison, Thaddeus Murray, Dart Stoval, Greg Lawson, Andy Brott, Megan Majoue, Michelle Ingram, Michael Collins, Calvin Johnson, Deidie Hayes, Commander Noel

### I. Welcome & Introductions of Board

We would like to thank Ochsner Hospital for providing us with this space – they are a great community partner and we look forward to future collaborations as they are a cornerstone of the Freret community. We also wish to thank our supportive City representatives who share the same vision to keep our communities safe for everyone.

All of us are fiercely proud of the Freret neighborhood and all of the new residents that are now calling it home after so many years of blight. This is a great community comprised of many life-long residents and generations of families calling Freret home.

The FID was created about 2 years ago when gun fire rang out in the street, 911 was called, no response or record of the multiple calls to 911. This was disturbing to many of us and it set the wheels in motion. The FID is a non-profit with the state of Louisiana, we have Bylaws filed, a website set up, & social networks online. Over the past 2 years we have been working with Volunteer.org and individuals and groups have been performing litter sweeps in the Freret neighborhood.

We have a lot of positive & great things happening but we are all aware of the current state of crime and the reduced NOPD force. We have to ask ourselves, “what can we do as individual citizens to stay safe”.

**The mission** is to improve the quality of life for residents & visitors to the Freret neighborhood.

**Goals** include enhanced security with video surveillance & IT technology, improved lighting and beautification. Communication sharing is a KEY goal.

II. Neighborhood Updates – Freret St. Parking Meters – Om Ingram via Dept. of Public Works  
*Parking meters promote curb turnover in metered spaces in front of businesses. Without meters someone can park in a space all day long which limits the number of customers that could potentially use the space. The City would consider installing meters if asked by the businesses along the corridor or the City Council but we haven't been asked to do that, therefore we do not currently have plans to install parking meters on Freret St.*

### III. Guest Speakers

**2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Noel** – Overall the 2<sup>nd</sup> District is in a good place. Armed robberies are up in the past two years with 2013 showing the lowest number of 53. Over the past for years they have had a solve rate of 51% in our district. The national average is 22-26% and city wide is 15%.

Law enforcement has changed and they must continually stay ahead of the curve. The criminal element knows the rules of engagement. The key items he suggests we focus on are:

1. Lighting

2. Security Cameras – ideally all intersections covered
3. See something, say something

Community Coordinator Officer Francois and Quality of Life Officer Stahle

Question about rape & sexual assault and the perception it is on the rise. In the past they were not reported or under reported. New reforms are in place to support the victims that come forward. Taking reports from victims is key, the more they know, the better information to track down the serial rapists.

2<sup>nd</sup> District Complaint Operator (instead of 911 or calling district desk) 504-821-2222

911 is a two-step process. Operator must gather info and then convey it to dispatch and the officers pending what the call requires.

Currently no I.T. support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District

SafeCam NOLA- database to register your security cameras, officers can pull up a map of the cameras after an incident.

As a citizen you can contact the Quality of Life officer to come to your home and address your weak points and suggest lighting, camera locations, door locks and more.

### **Greg Lawson – Office of Neighborhood Engagement**

Current program is the Civic Leadership Academy – 8 week in depth look of how city government works.

Coffee on your Corner – happened last Spring at Village Coffee

Annual Neighborhood Summit

Neighborhood Participation Project

**Stacy Head -Council Member at Large** – Councilmember Head is very sorry that she cannot be here tonight, as this meeting has been on her calendar for a long time and she had planned to be here.

However, yesterday, at the mayor's request, Councilmember Williams called a special meeting that will last probably into the night on Thursday, and she therefore has to miss tonight's meeting to take care of other responsibilities that were planned for Thursday.

### **IV. Outline Membership terms and dues – Garret Majoue**

Funding sources (grants, member dues), Security Camera subsidies

Quarterly meetings (March, June, Sept., Dec.)

Meeting Minutes Posted –if you cannot attend, you still get the info

Voting privileges

Member E-list Serve

Membership Auto Decal

Membership Directory

Liaison to City Hall - District B Council,

Office of Neighborhood Engagement, DPW,

Nonn-Pac Liaison

Direct channel to 2nd District Commander

& Quality of Life Officer

Discounted Crime Camera program & IT support

Free membership to NextDoor Freret

Group page on Facebook

V. Meeting Adjourned 6:55pm

### **Contact info:**

[www.freretimprovementdistrict.com](http://www.freretimprovementdistrict.com) - PayPal link set up for Member Dues

[freretimprovement@gmail.com](mailto:freretimprovement@gmail.com)

NextDoor Freret

Facebook/Freret