

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Monday, 2 December 2024, 3:00 pm

Covenant House, Board Room

611 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA 70112

1. Call to Order, Reading of the Agenda, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS					
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes	Approve 2025 Work Plan
Madison	Charleston	X		Yes	Yes
Rene	Fransen	X		Yes	Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	X		Yes	Yes
Erin	Holmes	X		Yes	Yes
Antonio	Carbone	X		Yes	Yes
Katie	Kolthoff	X		Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Michelle	Courseault	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Gretchen	Byers	VCPOA
Bob	Bejarano	FQMD Program Manager
Jane	Cooper	FQMD Chair
Christian	Pendleton	SEC Chair
Chad	Pellerin	Resident
Alex	Dunkenberger	CAO's Office

2. Public Comment:

Resident Chad Pellerin emailed a public comment, as seen below:

From: Chad Pellerin <chadpellerin69@gmail.com>

Date: December 1, 2024 at 6:10:15 PM CST

To: Michelle Courseault <executivedirector@fqmd.org>

Subject: Fwd: 1) lack of towed vehicles in F.Q. during festivals, and 2) ordinances requiring towing under no parking

1) I would like to speak before the livability committee, December 2, 2024 on lack of towing enforcement during F.Q. festivals that affect public safety. The fire trucks cannot maneuver the FQ with illegal vehicles parked in intersections and in front of fire hydrants. Yet, vehicles return to park in illegal spaces after the first round of towing is performed.

2) Parking is also not allowed for residents on certain blocks off Bourbon Street for festivals and events. After towing is performed only one time, no trucks return afterwards during the event, denying residents a place to park. Other visitor's vehicles park on the same blocks after the tow trucks pass only once, leaving only spaces for non-residents to park. Little to no residential parking is

respected, though residents comply with the ordinance, giving way to illegal parking in temporary signage requiring no parking. Tow trucks refuse to comply to enforce the ordinance.

Thank you, Chad Pellerin FQ resident

Ms. Pellerin also attended the Committee meeting and spoke with the Committee regarding her concerns of the lack of enforcement of vehicles, especially during festivals or special events in the French Quarter. She stated that several residents have voiced their concerns as well, noting that vehicles that are illegally blocking the “7s” and fire hydrants are not being towed. Ms. Pellerin stated that tourists are the ones illegally parking, and the residents are dealing with the consequences. She noted that during the recent fire in the French Quarter, firefighters were not able to get to the fire due to illegal parking blocking their path to the home. Ms. Pellerin asked that the FQMD look into finding immediate solutions for this safety concern, pointing out that this issue effects the entire French Quarter. Chair Mamie Gasperecz thanked Ms. Pellerin for her comment and stated that the Committee will keep raising awareness of this issue to the other FQMD Committees and work to find a solution.

3. Motion – Consider a motion to approve the previous meeting notes

Rene Fransen made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes. Vice-Chair Erin Holmes seconded the motion, and it was approved.

4. Committee Chair’s Comments

Ms. Gasperecz thanked the Committee for their attendance. She stated that, as the Committee works toward 2025 goals, to continue providing a welcoming environment for the public and be receptive to everyone’s concerns and feedback.

5. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of the Livability Committee 2025 Work Plan

See attached document. Ms. Gasperecz reviewed the 2024 Livability Committee Work Plan, asking the Committee for their feedback on any changes they would like to make for the 2025 plan. She noted that Covenant House will be added under the Homeless Services, with Shelby Ursu providing the case management KPIs for the Committee moving forward. She added that a revision to reflect the change of the sanitation company will need to be made, along with a criterion for evaluating them based on the new contract. Antonio Carbone suggested removing the “North Rampart Street” section for the 2025 plan, stating that this project has been completed. The Committee agreed to change this section to “Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety.” Mr. Carbone also suggested to move the storm water management to the “Infrastructure” section of the work plan, as well as adding “streetlights” and “interior parking management”, which would include finding solutions to curb illegal parking in the “7s” and the blocking of fire hydrants, as well as additional signage. The Committee also agreed to move the “Cleanliness” section into the “Sanitation Services” section, to revise the first bullet point under “Keep the Quarter Clean” to state, “maintain the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate program registration” and remove the second bullet point.

Mr. Carbone made a motion to approve the 2025 Livability Committee Work Plan. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion, and it was approved.

6. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of 2025 Sanitation Contract with Henry Consulting

Michelle Courseault reported that she attended the City Council meeting this morning with Jane Cooper to hear the latest updates on the sanitation contract. She stated that there is an inner conflict between the parties involved, which is delaying progress. Ms. Courseault added that no questions were answered, and no solutions were made, but Councilmember Freddie King stated that the best solution is for the parties to find a compromise before next Thursday, otherwise an emergency contract will need to ensue. She noted that no clarity was made on whether it would be the existing sanitation company or a different company for the emergency contract. Ms. Cooper suggested that the Committee decide on whether they want to take a public position on this matter to the Board meeting on Monday, December 9th for approval. Mr. Carbone stated that the position of the Committee would come down to the difference in the execution and efficiency of services. Ms. Cooper recommended that the Committee’s statement should express that the FQMD expects the level of services to be improved, with full transparency and accountability from the City, as well as express the FQMD’s concerns of the compact transition period. Katie Kolthoff added that the statement should include what the penalties are for failure to perform these services. Ms.

Courseault will work with Ellie Rand Public Relations (ERPR) to draft a press release expressing the Committee's concerns with the quality of services provided, the continuity and timeliness of these services, and penalties for failure to perform, as well as full accountability and transparency.

7. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of North Rampart Infrastructure and Safety Updates. To Present: Antonio Carbone
Mr. Carbone reported that the pending work left for this project is addressing the flashing beacon on St. Ann and North Rampart Street, which is at risk of being removed due to building zoning. Bob Bejarano noted that everything has been paid for and closed out for this project. He stated that he will be writing up a follow-up report about the entire project and suggestions for improvements on what the Committee can do moving forward with similar projects.

8. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Updates on the 2024 Streetlight Repair Project. To Present: Bob Bejarano
Ms. Courseault informed the Committee that the contract was awarded to ASE, LLC, a sister company of All Star Electric, on November 13th. She noted that there will be two phases for the project, with one focusing on Canal Street to St. Ann Street and the second phase focusing on St. Ann Street to Esplanade Avenue. Ms. Courseault reported that two crews will be working simultaneously, with one crew performing the streetlight assessments and the other crew performing the necessary repairs. Mr. Bejarano stated that there are crews out in the French Quarter beginning their initial assessments of the lights. Ms. Cooper added that The Tobler Company will be sending their first status report this Thursday, December 5th.

9. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Potential Key Performance Indices for 2025 Programs

- a. Private Property Graffiti Abatement
- b. Homeless Services Case Management
- c. Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety Measures

The Committee continued the discussion on potential Key Performance Indices (KPIs) for 2025. Maddie Charleston voiced her concern on the Private Property Graffiti Abatement program, noting the complexities that come along, like varying prices depending on the graffiti damage, cleaning product issues that can remove property paint along with graffiti, and the length of the removal process. Ms. Holmes noted that there are specific suggested products that the Vieux Carre Commission (VCC) put together a few years ago that can be helpful for residents, adding that the VCC is always willing to evaluate new products. She suggested reaching out to the VCC and Safe Wash, the contractors for the City's private property graffiti abatement program. Alex Dunkenberger will speak with Matt Torri, the Director of the Department of Sanitation, to find a point of contact with Safe Wash to connect Ms. Courseault with. Ms. Holmes will work with Ms. Courseault on updating the VCC graffiti abatement reporting and information form and update the QR code on the form.

Ms. Gasperecz informed the Committee that Unity is conducting a homeless study and once it is completed, she will share the information with the Committee. She asked Mr. Carbone if he had any suggestions for KPIs for the pedestrian and vehicle safety measures. Mr. Carbone replied that a form or opinion based survey would be the only way to measure the effectiveness. Ms. Holmes added that looking into crash data on North Rampart Street could also provide some useful information to measure the success of the implemented changes. Mr. Carbone stated that a foot traffic counter could also be useful, noting that more foot traffic could reflect that people feel safer to walk and cycle on North Rampart Street. He added that missing signage or broken and missing streetlights could also be measured.

10. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of 2025 Louisiana State Appropriation Budget Proposals. To Present: Bob Bejarano
Mr. Bejarano reported that he is waiting on word back from the State Department of Treasury, noting that he expects the first half of the 2024-2025 appropriation funding to be received soon. He pointed out that there is still a balance of \$325K in the budget that has not been specifically assigned to budget line items and asked the Committee to brainstorm ideas for any project proposals for 2025 that the \$325K could be allocated towards. Ms. Courseault noted that she is waiting for a proposal from the Louisiana State Police which will use some of these available funds. Mr. Bejarano reminded the Committee that the entire State appropriation will need to be spent by the end of June 2025. Ms. Courseault encouraged the Committee to create an ongoing wish list of projects they would like to pursue that can be referenced for this appropriation and potential appropriations in the future.

French Quarter

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

11. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Public Relations for 2025 Programs

Ms. Courseault asked the Committee to share their feedback regarding what boilerplate language for the Committee's quality of life and infrastructure/pedestrian and cyclist safety programs they would like to highlight for PR purposes, noting that having statistics, photos, and go-to phrases readily on hand for any future press opportunities would be helpful for herself as well ERPR. She added that ERPR will create a few statements for each topic of focus and engage in public awareness to share what the Committee has accomplished and will be working towards in the oncoming year.

12. New Business– To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Livability Committee

See attached document. Ms. Gasperecz reported that the KPIs for the new Community Liaison Officers program, which was created through the Security & Enforcement Committee and is through the Supplemental Police Patrol Program, have been created. She suggested that the Committee review the KPIs for this program, noting that it will benefit both public safety and quality of life for residents and businesses.

13. Next Meeting Date:

The next scheduled meeting date of the Committee is to be determined. **Ms. Gasperecz noted that the first Committee meeting for 2025 will be held in February.**

14. Adjournment

Ms. Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fransen seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Livability Committee

Infrastructure

- Improve existing assessment programs and develop new programming with partners to address challenges with infrastructure in the French Quarter

Sidewalks

- Update 2019 Sidewalk Assessment and expand to include
 - Curb study/survey
 - ADA Compliance Assessment
 - Street signs survey
- Develop relationships with the Regional Transit Authority and Downtown Development District to improve user experience with public transit in the French Quarter

N Rampart

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Work with partners in transportation planning and funding for North Rampart Street traffic calming measures designed and implemented to reduce multi-modal collisions.
- Work with the New Orleans Water Collaborative on opportunities to improve stormwater management

Lighting

- Work for lighting improvements that offer historically appropriate installations that provide a sense of security and place.
- Support Security & Enforcement Committee's focus on repair and maintenance of existing streetlights

Livability Committee Continued

Cleanliness

- Work for improved sanitary conditions throughout the French Quarter

Sanitation Services

- Continue to work with the City's contractor, KBS, to improve services and provide transparency on Key Performance Indices
- Work with the City to monitor new contract negotiation and bidding
- Work with stakeholder partners on a Sanitation Services Best Practices Study

Keep the Quarter Clean

- Complete the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate Program Registration
- Grow investment in litter abatement and beautification with outreach events with strategic partnerships
- Support VCGAP as lead on graffiti abatement in the French Quarter

Homelessness

- Identify opportunities to build on existing partnership and create new partnerships that will benefit the District.
- Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans case workers for street outreach launch by establishing metrics for success and transparent reporting
- Identify new strategic partnerships through working with Unity of Greater New Orleans and New Orleans & Company in their efforts to address homelessness.

Glass Half Full Recycling Stats										
Statistics Across All 3 Drop-Off Locations	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year to Date Average	Total
Glass (in lbs.)	1,314.00	1,913.00	3,373.50	2,362.50	3,125.00	2,550.00			2,439.67	14,638.00
Plastic (May & June in lbs. July forward in cubic yards)	58.65	111.55	14.70	10.90	14.40	14.40			37.43	224.60
Metal (May & June in lbs. July forward in cubic yards)	61.88	171.88	7.19	3.71	3.19	2.50			41.73	250.35
Cardboard (May & June in supersacks July forward in cubic yards)	6.23	7.50	16.25	15.25	16.50	17.30			13.17	79.03

Drop- Off Site Breakdown							
	August	September	October	November	December	Year to Date Average	Total lbs. glass recycled
Cabrini Park	950.00	975.00	1,475.00			1,133.33	3,400.00
HNOC	225.00	450.00	225.00			300.00	900.00
Jazz Museum	1,187.50	1,700.00	850.00			1,245.83	3,737.50

French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of November

99%

Of 3x per week and daily pressure washing completed; incompletions due to construction, crime, movie filming, and other unforeseen detours



Graffiti removed from 1251 spaces of public property in November

99%

Street Flushing Completed



100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed

0

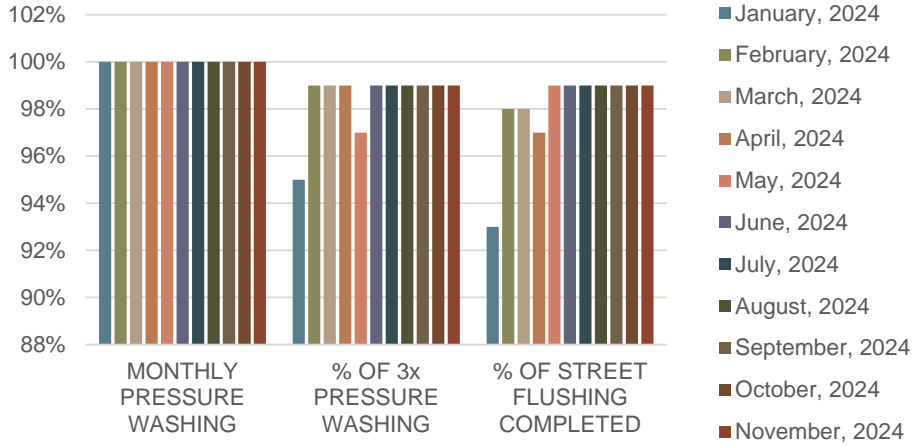
Instances of speeding 5+ miles over the speed limit over 120 routes in **November**



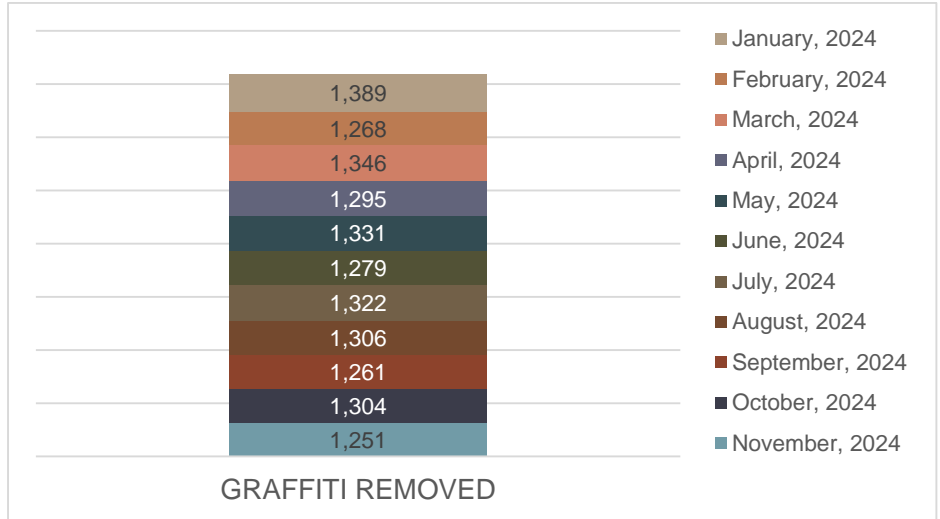
509

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew

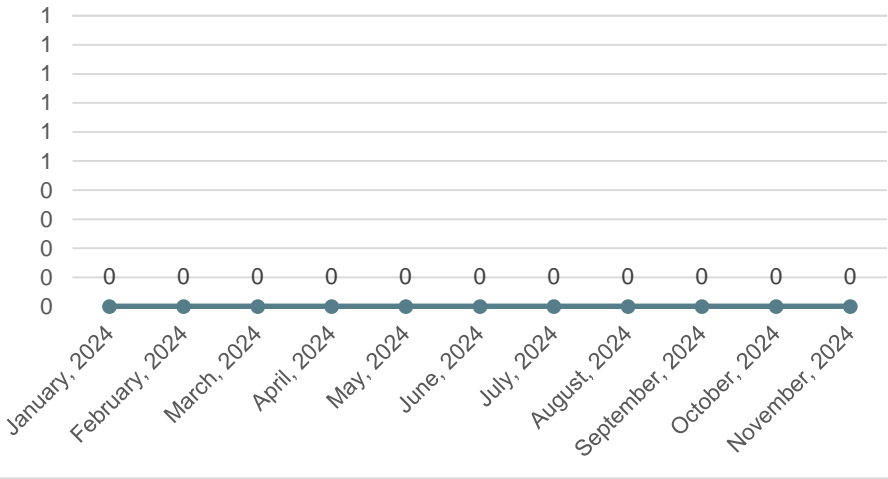
PRESSURE WASHING & FLUSHING



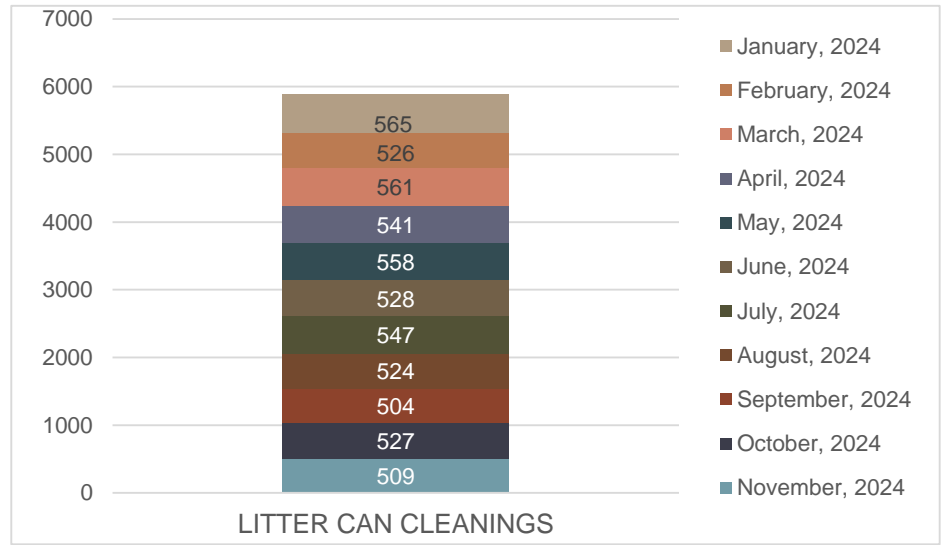
GRAFFITI REMOVED



INSTANCES OF SPEEDING



LITTER CAN CLEANINGS



SUPPLEMENTAL POLICE PATROL PROGRAM

Duties And Key Performance Indicators

The CLO program within the SPPP/FQTF will be a directed goal driven shift which will focus on quality-of-life issues in the French Quarter. The SPPP is currently well staffed and able to provide ample coverage to the Citizens & businesses of the French Quarter. The new CLO coverage will be covering from 9:00pm until 1:00am Friday through Sunday.

The SPPP CLO's will be focusing on, but not limited to, the following:

- Vagrancy involving possible criminal activity
- Noise violations from vehicles, motorcycles, and mobile speakers at night
- Illegal Parking involving a safety hazard. Hydrants, Driveway blocking, Corners, roadway blocking.
- Criminal Trespassing at residences and Businesses.
- Loudspeakers in doorways/transoms/ and windows
- Illegal vending of all types.
- Hazardous Traffic enforcement of busses and reckless vehicles.
- Graffiti, damage to property, and littering.
- Monitoring for excessive and unruly crowds along rampart and Decatur near the bars.

The Officers will also be conducting the same blue light visibility patrols while working. They will adjust their objectives as the need arises. The FQTF/SPPP Supervisor will actively meet with the 8th District CLOs to obtain intelligence and information regarding any Quality of life issues they receive that involve night time activities and adjust targeted objectives accordingly.



FQTF CLO PROGRAM

Addressing Quality Of life issues in the New Orleans French Quarter.

CONTACT

PHONE:
504-658-6080

WEBSITE:
sdtapptaskforce.com

EMAIL:
Jcastelin@nola.gov

Base Key Performance Indicators measured Weekly and Monthly.

- Arrests General
- Arrests for Quality-of-Life Issues
- Summons General
- Summons for Quality-of-life Issues
- Traffic tickets overall
- Parking tickets
- Field Interview Cards
- Business Checks
- Citizen Contacts associated with Quality-of-Life Issues
- Subjects moved from residential areas and sidewalks
- Police Reports Authored
- Total Calls Handled
- App Calls Handled
- Self-Initiated items handled for Quality-of-life Issues
- Miles patrolled
- Hours Patrolled

These KPI's will be evaluated and adjusted as needed to track and improve the quality of the work we are doing until we reach the most relevant set to add for permanent weekly and Monthly review.

Whenever possible the SPPP Supervisor will utilize the most experienced Officers/ Rank who are familiar with Quality of Life issues and the applicable laws.

