



CHIEF'S SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY ADVISORY FORUM



Henry Karnilowicz, Co-chair, 1019 Howard St. San Francisco, CA 94103 415.420.8113 Henry.Karnilowicz@gmail.com

Date: Friday, June 5, 2020

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Location: Zoom on line, San Francisco

MINUTES

Present: Henry Karnilowicz (Co Chair), Deputy Chief David Lazar, Derick Brown, Alex Mullaney, Sunshine Powers, Brandon Quan, Grace Horikiri, Vas Kiniris, Susie McKinnon, Bill Barnickel, Mike Zwiefelhofer, Eva Lee, Janet Tarlov, Suzie Ferras, Gwen Kaplan, Cynthia Silverstein, Ixchel Acosta, Barbara Gratta, Awadalla Awadalla, Betty Louie, Melissa Ayuma Bailey

Meeting commenced at 12:08 pm.

Grace Horikiri hosted and commenced the meeting.

Janet Tarlov made a motion to approve the minutes and Cynthia Silverstein seconded and approval was unanimous.

Cynthia Silverstein and Awadalla Awadalla got PPP loans within a matter of days with both saying it was very timely to be able to keep their employees working.

Sunshine Powers said she had to chase away looters on Haight Street on Saturday night staying till 4:00 am but a cop car was parked across the street on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night which was very stressful. Cynthia Silverstein had bunch of break-ins on Hayes and Gough including at Azalea, Nightbird, Gazette, Shorn, Andrea Norse Galleries and many other break-ins, robberies, assaults, camp encampment on Octavia and they are having a huge rise in crime and merchants are feeling like the police are being non responsive.

I extended our thanks to SFPD, and to Deputy Chief David Lazar, during these difficult times with the protests and violence. Deputy Chief David Lazar said he is grateful for our forum and important keeping our conversation boy Covid, and crime prevention and we are still meeting with Zoom. Its been tough for everybody with Covid first then the tragedy with George Floyd which was wrong and said he was screaming at the TV yelling “get him up” which was the training that they are trained to do. The whole team including Commander Fong and Derick Brown has been working to have community engagement and to hugging demonstrators and take a knee.

Addressing protesting with the demonstrations, vandalism, looting, the businesses that have been affected.

In response to what’s happening on Hayes Valley all with lack of police Deputy Chief David Lazar said every place officer and their days off canceled and sprang into action on Friday and Saturday with looting like he had never seen before in the city with 129 reported incidents of looting of businesses with hundreds of looters and made 90 arrests because of video evidence. Planning to make more arrests of many burglars from the east bay. They have 52 mutual aid officers and all officers have been deployed. Over 200 hundred officers came from Santa Barbara, Ventura, Fresno and other jurisdictions.

He emphasized that businesses who have been hit by looting or burglaries to report and provide video and image evidence, Some businesses have been hit three times. Even in Union Square looters would pull out crow bars to remove the plywood on the boarded up storefronts.

From the 8,000 person march on Wednesday there were only 25 arrests.

To Vas Kiniris’s question about protocol for reporting a crime, case number? Deputy Chief David Lazar said to email:

sfpd.burglary@sfgov.org

Alex Mullaney said that a loan shop was hit five times and Vas Knishes said there were many shops hit on Fillmore and that 40 are boarded up.

Deputy Chief David Lazar said all the officers are out.

Cynthia Silverstein for her it is with number of break-ins including residential burglaries. They don't see the police presence. She sees there is tug and pull with the DA's office and SFPD where the police arrest but the DA declines to prosecute. Some 20% of business may never open.

Deputy Chief David Lazar said they are 200 officers short. He will ask that Captain Joe Engler have presence in her area. He said that SFPD has a good relationship with DA but with Covid and the release of many offenders from prison they have a list of 35 burglars who are in and out including auto theft. How to fortify our businesses to prevent. They have a stack of arrest warrants which are ready to go once Covid situation dies down.

Cynthia Silverstein suggested that she is willing to work with SFPD on having merchant neighborhood meetings to talk about what the police and the public can do working together. She also praised Captain Joe Engler for his service for the community.

Deputy Chief David Lazar will ask the captain of the stations to work with the business and the community.

Janet Tarlov asked if people wearing masks are an impediment to which Deputy Chief David Lazar said that in many cases the suspects are not wearing masks.

Sunshine Powers got phone calls from Lower Haight about looting on Saturday night and they called cops but they had their license plates covered and as soon as the cops arrived they left then returned when the cops. A cop car was parked at Magnolias which seemed to be a deterrent. She would like to move the encampments from the sidewalks to safe shelters. Deputy Chief David Lazar said that it has been difficult.

Betty Louie said that it seems like organized crime has hit two jewelry stores on Grant and Deputy Chief David Lazar said his burglary unit is working on this case and are looking at suspects.

Eva Lee thanked Deputy Chief David Lazar and the SFPD and said that merchants need to put everything away others everything gets stolen and there was one case where a resident was beaten up,

Gwen Kaplan thanked the police for how they handled the protest on the Mission area.

Vas Kiniris said that the Fillmore merchants handed out chocolate pudding to the officers at North Station as a thank you and asked if it is okay to give treats to all the stations and Deputy Chief David Lazar said the police would be very grateful with son much of what is happening now.

Betty Louie said she was really pleased Captain Yick personally called her.

Deputy Chief David Lazar left at 12:40 pm.

Awadalla Awadalla asked about the shared space program and Cynthia Silverstein said that this a free program but the application is not out yet and she will send it to me as soon as it is available, probably in about a week.

Eva Lee is working on Sunday Streets for the summer closing Grant Avenue. She is working with Katy Birnbaum the Associate Director at Sunday Streets.

North Beach may be involved and the Peace Plaza in Japantown will be opening up for restaurants.

Small Business Week starts June 22 to June 26 about which CDMA is very excited doing merchant stories and highlighting businesses who are pivoting for success including a webinar on June 26 partnering with the Chamber and SF Magazine which will be highlighting merchants to their communities and it will be sponsored by Cruise.

Betty Louie asked that Eva Lee be notified about SF Magazine so Chinatown is included.

For marketing Vas Kiniris said that on a micro level and on a macro level we have to make our city safe and have temporary parklets. He also asked that if we want to donate donuts for the police. Derick Brown said that with the current attitude towards police they would appreciate some love.

Bill Barnickel said that he spoke with Captain Yip and they are organizing pizza for Taraval station at the end of June and also he has a friend from Thailand and they will be donating masks and he will let everyone know.

Susie McKinnon has not been to the hotel because it is closed but they have had a huge increase in homeless encampments. Looking in opening probably in mid August,

Grace Horikiri said Hotel Buchanan will be used for transitional housing,

Suzie Ferras is looking forward to opening and swamped with guidelines. She is working with Together SF to paint boarded up business to paint murals with condone that when they go down to give the boards to the artists and asked to let everyone know about this and pass in the contact info to her. She will have the boards picked up when they are removed,

Betty Louie said she is on the task force and just got a draft directive about how to open and it was just two pages instead of 30 pages.

Ixchel Acosta said that Captain Jean has been fantastic. Clement has done well with beat cops and she said that they have some boarded up storefronts which would probably like a mural.

Janet Tarlov moving into the next phase and seeing an uptick in shop lifting and doesn't want to be in a situation when some of the people maybe African American and coddle don with some advice.

Meeting adjourned 1:05 pm.

Minutes presented by Co-Chair Henry Karnilowicz

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