

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007
MINUTES

In Attendance: Joel Sher – Chairman, John Donald – Hilton Austin, Nancy Burns – LBJ AMP, Josh Allen – Pecan Street Owners Assoc., Danny Kaiser – Fleet Maintenance of Texas, Tanya Greenough – Caritas of Austin, Susan Morris – Front Steps, Ross Powley – Computer Science Corp., Marshall Jones & Roger Cauvin – Downtown Austin Neighborhood Assoc., Suzanne Watson – Austin Convention and Visitor Bureau, Carl Daywood – Daywood Realty, Kent Collins – DAA Board, Melisa Rodriguez – Wild About Music, Lori Renteria – East Austin Neighborhood Assoc., David Laibovitz – Downtown Assistant District Attorney **APD** – Lt. Bill Manno, Lt. Fred Fletcher, Offcr. Martin Limon **TABC** – Lt. Robert Saenz, Sgt. Jimmy Zuehlke **AFD** – Battalion Chief Don Smith **Travis County Sheriff's Office** – Cpt. Lisa Brown, Kelly Page **Downtown Rangers Staff** – Dane Sullivan **DAA Staff** – Charlie Betts, Bill Brice

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of March 28 meeting minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of meeting agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

General Updates:

DAA Staff Report – Bill Brice – DAA FY 07-08 Budget Approved – the DAA Board approved the FY 07-08 (May 1 through April 30) operating budget, which includes increased funding to add 2 maintenance laborer positions. Also approved in the budget was a staff recommendation to shift grant funding from the Downtown Parks Patrol program back into the Rangers program. This change will add 2 full-time equivalent Rangers positions. Bruce Mills, director of the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, assured DAA that this change would not result in less than adequate police coverage in downtown parks and would in no way negatively impact security staffing at the ARCH. **Graffiti Report** – The DAA's year-to-date total for tags removed in the Public Improvement District is 2,430, with 651 tags removed in the last quarter. The total number of tags removed in FY 06-07 was 3,049. There has been an arrest made by DPS of a 20 year-old white male who tagged the Capitol visitors parking garage on or about April 15. No specific reports have been provided to the DAA on the progress or activity of the APD detective assigned to graffiti crimes. However, the DAA has requested this information from Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald and from Detective Wills. **Liquor License Protests** – A hearing is scheduled for May 22 for the protests TABC, APD and DAA filed against the transfer of a liquor license at 404 Colorado Street (dba "Vicci"). The DAA's protest in this case was filed July 2, 2004. Mr. Brice stated that the DAA had recently requested APD and TABC records operated by Vicci's owner, Mr. Mike Yassine, and the records appear to indicate significant numbers of APD calls for service, reports filed, arrests and TABC violations. The DAA's protest against the renewal of a license for 400 E. 6th Street (dba "The Co-Op Bar") is still pending. The ACVB, DANA, St. Davids, 1st United Presbyterian Church, Pecan Street Owners Association and Hotel and Lodging Association have also protested the renewal of this license. Mr. Brice explained that because this protest had been filed without the formal recommendation of the Committee, the Committee might wish to go "on record" supporting the protest and recommending that the DAA Board formalize its support of the protest. **Motion: Ross Powley** made a motion that the DAA Security and Maintenance Committee support the DAA protest against the renewal of the liquor license of 400 E. 6th Street and a recommendation that the DAA Board also support the protest. **Second: Carl Daywood.** Without further discussion the motion passed unanimously. **Event Street**

Closures/Texas Relays Debriefing – DAA staff and member representatives are meeting with APD officials today to discuss access issues during special events and to have a debriefing on Texas Relays weekend. **Take – Lock – Hide Signs** – The DAA has received several requests for these signs for downtown parking garages. **Officer Limon** stated that APD has depleted its supply of these signs, and that he would let Mr. Brice know when more would be available.

Downtown Rangers – Dane Sullivan – Mr. Sullivan introduced Lt. Fletcher who now oversees the Rangers program. **Staffing** – The process to recreate 2 Rangers positions has begun, which will bring the Rangers staffing up to 10 FTE positions. **Monthly Statistics** – Some categories in the current year monthly stats are about 50% of the same period for the previous year. The drop in “citizen assist” numbers may be due to the fact that last year Austin hosted a stop on the NCAA Basketball Championships, and the Rangers did not serve as active a role in the Arts Festival as they had in past years.

APD – LT. Manno – Crime Statistics – Violent crimes in DTAC are up 12% over the same period from 2006. Property crimes are down 13%. **Texas Relays** – Overall, the weekend crowds were down due to inclement weather. Several issues occurred at the Hilton, including a shots fired incident and brawl in the hotel lobby involving 6-10 people. No injuries resulted from these incidents and 4 arrests were made. **Mr. Daywood** commented on the increased occurrence of property crimes at his E. 6th Street properties and near-east-side properties, including theft of HVAC/plumbing parts and construction materials. He requested that APD investigate the salvage yards that are buying the scrap materials.

TABC – Sgt. Zuehlke – New Applications filed - Three applications were filed this month for new mixed beverage licenses, including 121 W. 8th Street, 115 San Jacinto and 701 W. 6th. **Mr. Daywood** requested information on what TABC could do to enforce against operators that have violated City building codes, health codes or others. **Lt. Saenz** stated that TABC would not file against an operator for City code violations unless those violations pose a health or safety hazard.

Downtown Assistant DA – David Laibovitz – Mr. Laibovitz is involved in prosecuting all felony crimes that occur downtown. He has been working with the DAA on liquor license protests and continues to manage the St. Jail Reentry program.

Overview of Public Order Ordinances Report – Bill Brice – (see attached report) In the absence of a representative from Community Court, Mr. Brice presented the report for “information only”. The report is an assessment of the effectiveness of the Public Order Ordinances that were amended December 26, 2005. It includes the viewpoints of APD, Parks Police, City Health and Human Services, local social service agencies, Community Court, and others. Overall, participants in the study indicate that the amended panhandling, camping and sit/lie ordinances appear to have had a positive impact on the behaviors they were created to address. From the DAA’s perspective, the ordinances have not resolved public order problems, but conditions have improved. A concern noted in the report by the social service agencies is safety conditions in the alley between ARCH and Salvation Army. **Ms. Renteria** asked that the Committee entertain a request to support adding the APD “Charlie 4” Sector to the area covered by the ordinances. **Mr. Sher** asked that this topic be taken up at the May meeting.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.