

**SSA Commission Meeting/ Special Service Area #60**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2014**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**North River Commission Office**  
**3403 W. Lawrence Ave Ste. 201**  
**Chicago, IL 60625**

**SSA Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**SSA Commissioners Present:**

Saima Causevic, Stephanie Fishel (Vice President), Frank Kern, Mir Naghavi, Jim Karagianes (Treasurer), John Tunnell, Andrew Levin (President), Angela Bowman\_(Secretary)

**North River Commission Staff Present:**

Thomas Applegate (Executive Director), Duka Dabovic (SSA Manager), Roya Mehrnoosh

**Other Attendees:**

Carol Maher (resident), Tom Guagliardo (TRIP Board Member, owner of Tano's Pizza), Dwan Russell (AGB)

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Andrew Levin.

**Item:**

**Minutes**

Stephanie moves to approve; Saima seconds. All voted in favor.

**Item: Approval of Financials**

Jimmy moves to approve the financials. Frank seconds. All voted in favor.

**Item: 2015 SSA Budget Modification**

Angela moves to table the discussion until the next meeting. John seconds. All in favor.

**Item: Presentation from AGB Investigative security company**

Shanise Jones

AGB=Always Giving Back

Loraina Lianne

Also do White House jobs

Dwan Russell: we are the company that serves the greatest number of SSAs.

Citywide dispatch hooked into CPD

Fleetmatics: Through GPS, we can know where each car is at any moment.

Shift Planning: Also GPS shows when/where people clock in.

Body cameras have live feed to office

Loraina: SSA-specific training for officers (14 weeks)

Dwan: these are the same individuals that get assigned to federal detail. Their training is higher than CPD. Owner is ex-Secret Service and requires the same level of training for SS.

Loraina: Less turnover than with other companies, because there is room for advancement. Officers have a higher level of education than at most security companies. AGB pays for them to take even other academic classes towards their degree.

Dwan: two hours of physical training every morning.

Same people come every week. Company has 200 staff. 50 accounts in 4 states. Great relationship with CPD. CPD is in charge, AGB backs them up.

Some officers are also police officers.

Andrew asks: to use police officers or non-officers?

Loraina says sometimes non-officers take it more seriously than off-duty cops, for whom this is a separate job. They do carry guns, unless you prefer un-armed. They recommend armed officers, because it makes them better able to respond to robberies and larceny, the most common crime in this neighborhood.

Dedicated foot patrol is important to getting to know the businesses as well as serving a deterrent against loiterers.

Monthly reports would include concerns raised in conversations with business owner or community members. Duka thinks it might be nice to have the reports more frequent.

Loraina says sure, if you want. We can also go to CAPS meetings.

Thomas: at what point do you report to district 17?

Dwan: we participate in the police roll calls.

Mir asks for clarification: so business owners can call you?

Dwan/Loraina: Yes. You can always call the office. Also, during the shift they will have a dedicated line and you can call them to you at any time. Office is down in Beverly.

Frequency? A business would likely see a vehicle 3 or 4 times during 6-hour shift and a walking officer 1 or 2 times during shift.

**Item: Reliance Security Services**

**Abe Khan:** 35 years of experience (Certified Protection Professional—highest qualification, requires ten years of experience)

**Ray**

Officers CPR, first aid, taser, and baton.

Office in Irving Park.

Abe wants to educate the community about security.

They will do a free security survey for any business in the SSA, telling them how they can improve. It also tells Reliance what to look out for in the neighborhood.

Internal Affairs—they go out and covertly and overtly test their officers during the shift. Constant evaluation and retraining.

Fingerprint scan.

Electronic pipe patrol (officer swipes wand on scanner to show that they've walked by).

Computer report gets to SSA the next morning. Writing of reports are very important; they go to great lengths to make sure the reports are good.

Abe used to be head of security at Hancock Building and IIT (7 campuses)

Experts in robbery prevention.

Essence of security is prevention rather than reaction. Being a strong presence is how you prevent crimes.

Divides area into three beats.

Beat 1, Lawrence down to Montrose—armed squad car

Beat 2, Montrose—armed squad car

Beat 3, Irving—armed squad car

All three beats—unarmed bike patrol

Recommends a lot of Hispanic officers since it's largely a Hispanic neighborhood.

One supervisor per shift, billed at the regular officer rate.

Same people all the time. You want them to get to know the neighborhood.

No SSA experience. Biggest other job, Wavefront music fest, three weeks long, 150 officers.

Andrew asks about the degree of experience and training. He wants to request more-experienced officers. Abe says sure, we can make a point of only giving you people who have been with the company for two years.

All officers have radio. Supervisor has cell phone to respond to calls on the spot. All merchants and tenants will have that cell phone.

Office on Irving for ten years. Abe lives in the neighborhood. Will attend all CAPS meetings at no additional cost. Also proposes to have a monthly meeting at the office with merchants.

**Item:** Comparative discussion of three proposals.

Jimmy and Mir and Frank think it's great that Reliance is from the neighborhood. Both companies have a strong presentation.

Andrew proposes asking a few more things about Reliance before we hire them—ask for references, insisting upon body cameras, ask them to drop the price a little.

Stephanie says ask for body cameras OR ask for a discount, but not both.

We have to make a choice at the next meeting.

**Item:** 2014 Full Year Assessment

Angela moves that we approve; Stephanie seconds. All in favor.

**Item:** Bike rack discussion.

Angela moves that we postpone the discussion. Stephanie seconds.

**Item:** Audit proposals

\$3500 Eilts (has the most experience and Duka recommends)

\$4500 ASG

\$6000 Evolve Financial

Jimmy moves we choose Eilts; Stephanie seconds. All in favor.

**Item:** Façade Renovation Criteria

The review committee will summarize the applicants and make recommendations. SSA commission must still have the final approval.

All commissioners have until Friday to mail their notes on the criteria to Duka.

**Item:** Snow Removal

Feverish discussion about whether to reduce the 2" snow minimum to 1". We did not make any decisions.

**Adjournment:**

Jimmy moves to adjourn at 7:30. Angela seconds. All in favor.