

# DOWNTOWN FRESNO PARTNERSHIP

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## Clean & Green Committee

Wednesday, June 3, 2020  
8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Downtown Fresno Partnership  
845 Fulton Street

### MINUTES

- **PRESENT:** Cassey James, Yahaira Figueroa, Jerry Shuber, Daniel Dorris, Rick Rai
- **STAFF:** Jimmy Cerracchio, Lee Blackwell, Daniel Griffith

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:34 AM.

#### II. COVID-19 Updates

Jimmy updated the group on the status of DFP staff, stating that ambassadors are back to patrolling. Office staff is working at the office as needed to ensure proper social distancing. Businesses are starting to reopen, with some retail back and restaurants starting to move back to dine-in operation. We are still seeing a lot of homeless activity while downtown is still coming back online. DFP staff is still sending regular updates to businesses informing of updates to city and state orders, loan and grant programs, and security issues.

#### III. Clean (Ambassador Report, Garbage, Landscaping) –

- a) Ambassador report - Lee gave the ambassador report stating that while he is out of the office currently, the other ambassadors are doing light clean ups, assisting with trash pick-up on Fulton, and reporting graffiti and damage. Lee discussed some of the homeless issues we've had in Federal Alley, including the person starting fires and camping behind 926 Fulton. He also mentioned that ambassadors are helping at the Market on Kern and touching base with businesses.
- b) Garbage – Lee mentioned the challenges of getting the trash cans on Kern Street emptied and mentioned that the ambassadors have been assisting with cleaning up the area when cans overflow. Committee members discussed issues including that the city installed the cans many years ago, but since COVID outbreak, no one is servicing the cans. Jimmy added that this is an ongoing conversation with Public Works department to address. He also added the city wanted to stop servicing cans when they determined that they would no longer do commercial pick up. These cans fell into a gray area over the last years and were being serviced by the median island crew. COVID outbreak saw that service stop with no explanation. Yahaira discussed concept of trash can adoption for nearby businesses. Jimmy & Yahaira will continue to pursue solution.

Jimmy asked Mid-Valley about new dumpster lids and locks. Daniel said the program to replace the cans and lids is on hold for now, but will hopefully resume as businesses start re-opening. They said most cans are not locked currently, homeless have been using tools to break locks, and the businesses haven't been available to get fixed on regular basis. He said they've seen a 15-20% drop in trash by the ton. Cassey suggested that DFP send notice to businesses to start locking again as we are reopening.

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- IV. **Fresno City Planters & Fountains** – Cassey mentioned that the fountain at CVS is not operating again. Jimmy mentioned that the homeless have been bathing in the fountains again which is probably causing problems. Lee said the fountain crew has been out doing cleaning and repairs. Yahaira said there is no update on the Planter adoption program. The assistant city manager, Aldo Dodds has the legal agreement for review.
- V. **Security Report** – Jimmy mentioned current concerns about rioting in Fresno. He said that DFP is monitoring activity and staying in regular contact with police and security. Jimmy mentioned that DFP sent info to businesses on how to prepare in case of looting and to stay aware of suspicious activity. Jimmy mentioned that the protest and Sunday cruise event both ended early for safety reasons as chatter of antifa arriving to disrupt the events. The committee discussed U-Haul trucks and vehicles without license plates being used to deliver weapons and riot materials in other cities. Agreed to keep an eye out for construction materials that are in random places and trucks with no license plates. Also discussed the increase in homeless activity since COVID outbreak began. Police had told DFP about increased violence near Poverello House, and concerns it may spill into downtown. They are working to contain it. Jerry mentioned that the city will be doing regular power-washing and cleaning at homeless encampments near Poverello house. He said homeless will be temporarily displaced while cleaning but will be allowed to return. This may impact downtown as homeless look for places to go.
- VI. **Parking Management** – Jimmy said that garages are still free and unmanned during the day and meters are still charging. Cassey mentioned that new meters appeared near Warnor’s Theater.
- VII. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 am.