

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

November 27, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and roll was called. In attendance were: Reid Raymond, Val Cupit, Nancy Lytle, Brian Anderson, Michelle Douglas, Jeb Bruneau, Martin Landrieu, Rory Bellina, Ann Leblanc and Joe Landry. A quorum was attained. Board Attorney Richard Bordelon, board accountant Larry Jacobi, and LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin were also in attendance, as was State Representative Stephanie Hilferty and approximately seven members of the public.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Brian called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and noted that they had been distributed to the board earlier. The motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting was made by Nancy, and was seconded by Reid. All were in favor of approving those minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Larry reported that the balance of cash on hand was three hundred fourteen thousand, twenty-four dollars eighty-seven cents. He stated that when what is currently owed, and anticipated expenditures are deducted from the balance, that the board will be left with a surplus of approximately two-hundred thousand dollars at the end of the year though only approximately twenty-five thousand had been budgeted for a surplus. Mr. Jacobi attributed this larger surplus to collections being up by sixty thousand dollars and that expenditures being down one hundred twenty thousand dollars below what was budgeted and because of the cash on hand that was carried over from the previous year. Larry explained that the surplus would allow the board to accommodate the purchasing of previously discussed vehicles, crime cameras and the patrolman's raise in 2018. Because these figures were not within five percent of the budgeted figures, an adjustment to the budget would be sent out electronically in December for approval at the January meeting.

Larry was holding a bill of one thousand, six hundred and sixteen dollars from the Times Picayune. This bill was for the publishing of minutes for two months. Previous months had been running less than three hundred fifty dollars per month, but that a new staff at the Times Picayune had determined that LCPD was not an approved subsidiary of the City of New Orleans and therefore not eligible for the discount

that had been in place for almost two years. When Larry explained that the board would have to put the publishing costs out for bid, the Times Picayune said maybe they could reach an agreement before putting it out to bid. Representative Hilferty offered to get clarification of exactly what is required for the publishing of the minutes as well as offered a letter stating that LCPD is an entity of the state.

Brian stated that he was opposed to paying the bills that had been changed midstream. He stated that the Times Picayune should change them back to the rate that it was before and that they could discuss a change for the future. Richard agreed to look into what is the most efficient way to publish the minutes, and into what publications would be allowed and that he would report his findings to the board.

Larry reported that the company that carries the board's Public Official Management & Employment Liability Policy was getting out of that specific business and that the policy would not be renewed as of February 6. He added that he was shopping several other vendors (Eustis, Egan and Stone) for this policy and that he would have those figures to the board in January. He did not anticipate any gaps in coverage.

Lastly, Larry reported that he had been informed by the state legislative auditor that because the board's annual budget exceeded seventy-five thousand dollars, that the board would now start having to do audits every year instead of every other year. He added that our current auditor, Carr, Riggs and Ingram is on the list of approved auditors and that we would continue with them as LCPD's auditor.

**Crime Prevention Report:** LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin reviewed the attached Crime Prevention Report. This month in Lakeview so far, there were six UCR crimes reported; two autos were burglarized, both were left unsecured. There were two vehicle thefts, both vehicles were unsecured, and there were two simple thefts.

Ninety-four percent of the vehicles burglarized in Lakeview year-to-date were unlocked. Seven auto burglary cases of forced entry had valuables in plain view. Year-to-date, seven firearms were stolen in Lakeview, all from unsecured vehicles. There have been 51 auto thefts in Lakeview year-to-date, forty-three of them were unsecured with keys in them, two were forced entry.

Sgt. Benjamin reported on actions that were being taken by the patrolman to increase police visibility in zones where the crimes were occurring. There had been five persons crimes in Lakeview year-to-date. Four were cleared by arrest, one is under investigation. He reported that Lakeview's persons crime rate is the lowest in the city.

Sgt. Benjamin also reported that Lakeview crime is down two percent for the year overall, and that we have a good chance at the end of the year of beating last year's figures. While property crimes were up two percent, persons crimes in Lakeview were down sixty-four percent. He ended his report by reviewing crime prevention tips to follow during the holiday season. Brian and Nancy pointed out the success at reducing crime and they thanked Sgt. Benjamin for his role in that success.

**Public Comments:** Brian asked the members of the public who were attending if there were any public comments and there were none.

**False Alarm Registration:** Ann reported on the requirement to register alarm systems. She explained that there is a private company called Cry Wolf that is charged by the city with registering alarms. There will be charges incurred associated with false alarm calls. Brian explained that unregistered alarms will be assessed a fine for false alarm calls, those registered will be fined only after a certain number of false alarms.

**Purchase of Thermal Scopes for the LCPD Officers** Brian presented the board with specifications of a thermal scope that the technology committee was purchasing for the patrols to use. It was felt that based on the options of the particular model presented to the board that it was the proper unit for the officers. Brian explained that the officers felt that it would be a good tool in addressing the car door handle pullers that plague Lakeview by making them visible from great distances. Brian made the board aware of the purchase of two of these units at approximately two thousand dollars each that would come out of the already approved technology budget. There were no objections by any board members.

**Crime Camera Program Update:** Brad Giacome, Jeff Burkhart, and Brian Fitzpatrick of ActiveSolutions informed the board of their company, and explained to the board how ActiveSolutions could advise and consult with the board on how to best reduce crime using technology.

Martin made a motion for the board to authorize the board president to enter into a contract with ActiveSolutions for an amount that is not to exceed twenty-five hundred dollars to evaluate and report back on the LCPD's current technology program and to make recommendations. It was clarified that the costs were for professional services and not for making a proposal. The motion was seconded by Ann. Brian called for a vote. Brian abstained, Ann and Rory were opposed. The motion passed with the remaining seven board members voting in support of the motion.

A motion was also made that authorized the board president to enter into a contact with ActiveSolutions in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars to hire on an ad-hoc basis for technical services on LCPD's technology program. The motion was seconded by Michelle. The motion passed with all in favor.

**LA Ethics Online Course due in January:** Though it was his understanding that everyone on the board had already complied, Brian reminded everyone that they must take the state online ethics course once each year that if they had not done so already, that it must be done before the year's end.

**Miscellaneous topics/information from Board Members:** Brian reminded everyone that LCPD does not meet in December. There were no other miscellaneous topics.

Brian asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy made the motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Martin and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55PM.