

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

June 28, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. Roll was called, in attendance were: Michelle Douglas, Melissa Lessell, Freddy Yoder, Brian Anderson, Martin Landrieu, and Graham Ryan. A quorum was established with six board members present. Val Cupit arrived during the financial report. Also, in attendance were LCPD Commander Rene Benjamin, accountant Sudie Joint, and board attorney Richard Bordelon, as well as approximately __ members of the community. State Representative Stephanie Hilferty was also present.

Approval of minutes: Brian Anderson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May board meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier in the week. The motion to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting was made by Martin Landrieu and seconded by Graham Ryan. The motion passed with all in favor.

Opening Comments: Brian Anderson introduced the newest member to the board, Melissa Lessell. Ms. Lessell gave a quick bio of herself, stating that she lives on 30th Street, she is a lawyer with the law firm of Deutsch-Kerrigan located in New Orleans and he practices professional liability defense. Brian Anderson welcomed her to the board before moving on to the administrative portion of the agenda.

Administrative Agenda: Financial Report: Sudie Joint reviewed the monthly financial statements (attached). Ms. Joint reviewed Profit and Loss statement for the board. She pointed out that income was about thirty-six thousand dollars less than what is budgeted, but that after the last board meeting a check for seventy-six four hundred eighty-nine dollars had been received. That check from the city only covered parcel fee payments through February and she expressed confidence that when the other months of March, April, May and June were received, that the income would actually be over budget. Ms. Joint reviewed several line items on the budget such as accounting and patrols, and she reported that all were tracking well for the year. The board currently has six hundred and thirty thousand, one hundred and eighty-two dollars and fifteen cents in the bank account. She explained that the reason why the accounting line item had gone up from last year was anticipated costs associated with complying to additional statewide accounting procedures. Patrols were also up as expected, because of pay raises to the officers. Brian Anderson pointed out that the budget showed thirty-four thousand dollars less in parcel fees collected. Ms. Joint explained that the board had only received the fees collected through February from the city and that they still expect to collect more than what was collected last year. She then reviewed the budget that had been updated from the previous meeting.

Ms. Joint stated that she and Larry Jacobi projected that there would be at least as much revenue as there was last year. One item that had changed from last month's budget was last year's projected revenue which was previously set at eight ninety-five and was changed to nine-hundred fourteen

thousand, two hundred and sixty-three dollars. The projected actual for the 2018 audit was reduced to nineteen thousand seven hundred dollars. For those reasons, she believed that there would be a surplus of one hundred twenty-two thousand four hundred seventy dollars carried forward to next year's budget. Larry Jacobi and Ms. Joint were comfortable with the adjustments. She added that the adjustments made to the proposed budget allows the board to maintain the patrols at the current level through next year. The amount budgeted for patrols was based on the most current average hourly cost of patrols.

In reviewing the budget, she concluded by explaining that the budget spends more in 2019 than it takes in by one hundred nineteen thousand twelve dollars but this amount is offset by a surplus of one hundred twenty-two thousand four hundred and seventy dollars from this year that is being carried forward into 2019 leaving a surplus of three thousand four hundred fifty-seven dollars. Brian pointed out that at some time in the future it would be a necessity for the board to make some adjustments either to reduce spending, or to increase the parcel fee amount.

Brian Anderson called for either the budget to be adopted as presented, or to make changes and adopt it with those changes. Val Cupit made a motion to adjust the amount shown for purchasing the car to reflect the most current amount which was three thousand four hundred and fifty-seven dollars more than what was shown on the proposed budget. Michelle Douglas pointed out that the surplus amount to be carried over into the next year would be reduced by that amount. Melissa stated that the costs for purchasing a new car in 2019 budget should be adjusted accordingly as well. Freddy Yoder suggested taking the numbers out of patrols since it was the largest number in the budget. Martin Landrieu suggested that the numbers being discussed were very minor and not worth adjusting but he concluded that if it was the board's wishes then it should be done. Brian Anderson restated the motion to reduce by three thousand four hundred and fifty-seven dollars from the amount budgeted for patrols and to add that amount to what is budgeted for the purchasing of patrol cars. This is to be done for the 2018 budget and projected 2019 budget. The motion was made by Val Cupit and was seconded by Michelle Douglas. Freddy Yoder pointed out that the point was somewhat moot because the budget lines that are outside of five percent off are adjusted anyway. Val Cupit amended her motion to make that adjustment to the 2019 only and not to apply it to the current budget. It was seconded by Michelle Douglas. The motion to approve the changes as stated to the proposed budget carried with all in favor, and none opposed. Michelle Douglas left the meeting after the vote to make the changes, however a quorum was still maintained.

Louisiana Legislative Audit Presentation-Sudie Joint explained that the audit that was passed out was still in draft form, but that it would be final tomorrow. The auditors noted that the online ethics training class issue that had previously been an issue for the board had been addressed. This was the first year that the auditor required an audit of state-wide agreed upon procedures. The board did have a few exceptions, but that this was expected by the auditor. Some processes regarding complying with bid laws needed to be put in writing. Brian Anderson suggested that some board members get with board attorney Richard Bordelon to define these processes. Richard Bordelon explained that though we have followed the law in soliciting public bids, we did not have those procedures defined in writing as required by the auditors. Brian Anderson added that the auditors found the board minutes, the way in

which the board reconciles the banking, the general ledger, and the hiring of the attorney and accountant were all found acceptable by the auditors.

Brian Anderson pointed out that with the departure of Joe Landry from the board, that the office of treasurer was now vacant. Brian Anderson asked for nominations and Val Cupit nominated Graham Ryan for the position of treasurer. There were no other nominations. A vote was held for Graham Ryan for the position of treasurer and all were in favor and there were none opposed. Brian noted that Graham would need to be set up to sign checks.

Brian asked that the board approve the members of the LCPD Technology Committee. Those members were: Brian Anderson, Val Cupit, and Nancy Lytle. Irene Dowling, Gino Ascanti, and Taylor Oterling would serve as resident members as would former board member Reid Raymond. Graham Ryan moved to approve the slate of members for the Technology committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Melissa Lessell. There was no discussion on the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed with 5 in favor and Freddy Yoder abstaining from voting.

Public Interest Agenda:

Crime Prevention Report & Statistics: Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the month-to-date Crime Prevention Report (attached). He reviewed a case where a stabbing occurred. The victim stated he was stabbed at Fleur de Lis and 10th Street. This victim has a history involving domestic violence and claims to know who stabbed him but refused to cooperate by identifying that person. An aggravated burglary occurred where a forced entry into the victim's residence occurred, items were stolen and the victim was assaulted with a baseball bat before fleeing the scene. This incident has been cleared by a warrant. There were twenty-one reported incidents of auto burglaries for the month, twenty of those involved unlocked vehicles. Several significant arrests have already been made regarding the auto burglaries. A sixteen-year-old who has been wanted for the March 2018 Walker Street aggravated assault incident has been arrested. Several hand guns contraband, narcotics and two stolen vehicles were recovered with that arrest. His partner-in-crime, the second ring-leader of that particular gang was also arrested.

A business burglary occurred at Dolly's on Tuesday June 26. The perpetrator broke the glass pane of the front door, made entry and attempted to gain access to a video poker machine. Nothing was stolen. The perpetrator was later identified, found and was arrested. There were 17 outstanding warrants for this individual at the time of his arrest.

Three thefts and three shoplifting incidents were reported at the Dollar Tree on Canal, one was cleared by arrest. Lakeview was experiencing a twenty percent reduction in property crime in June of 2018 when compared to June of last year. For the past three years, June was the peak month for auto burglaries. LCPD officers were addressing this by strictly enforcing the city's curfew ordinance. Recent significant arrests of known auto burglars have resulted in a reduction of those incidents in Lakeview. Sgt. Benjamin concluded by stating that unlocked vehicles attract such crime to Lakeview and that the sure way to reduce crime in our community is to make sure that your vehicle is locked at all times. He then reviewed the year-to-date crimes. We are currently twenty-seven percent below last year's numbers. Sixty percent of all property crimes in Lakeview involve vehicles that are either burglarized or

stolen. There have been fifty-eight auto burglaries reported year to date. Ninety-eight percent of the vehicles were unlocked when the crimes occurred. Five of those cases have been cleared by arrest. Thirteen vehicles have been reported stolen. Five have been cleared by arrest. Eleven of the thirteen stolen vehicles had keys in them. Ten of the thirteen vehicles have been recovered. In response to a question from Martin Landrieu, Sgt. Benjamin explained that the reduction in auto thefts is because of strategies employed by the LCPD officers that involved the re-deployment of patrols and the use of decoy vehicles as well as better cooperation from the public with the locking of their car doors. Sgt. Benjamin also reviewed several auto-theft prevention tips including the use of key-fob protectors, tire locks, and tracking devices. Response times were also reviewed with LCPD being well below the response time goal. Lakeview was considerably below last-year's crime figures and on target to have the lowest crime rate ever. Although Lakeview crime remains very low, a slight bump in activity this month prevented that lowest-ever goal from being attained this month. To prevent theft: Lock your car, take your keys with you, hide your belongings & if you see something, say something.

Freddy Yoder asked Sgt. Benjamin to pursue getting 'lock your car' signs that were being displayed in Jefferson Parish. Sgt. Benjamin stated that he would pursue them. Mr. Yoder also reminded everyone to be mindful that they may inadvertently open or unlock their vehicle by bumping key-fobs that are kept in pockets while home.

Val Cupit reviewed the inventory of the LCPD fleet and stated that she felt that a vehicle needed to be purchased in 2018 and Sgt. Benjamin agreed. Val Cupit made a motion to purchase a fully equipped Tahoe. Freddy Yoder seconded it. Martin Landrieu interjected that since this was such a major expenditure, we should make certain that it is needed. Sgt. Benjamin reviewed that need and explained that vehicles had been decommissioned earlier in the year. Some of the older vehicles are being used as decoy vehicles. Martin Landrieu stated that he had been convinced of the need to purchase a new vehicle by Sgt. Benjamin. Brian Anderson restated the motion and this time it was seconded by Melissa Lessell. A vote was held to purchase a vehicle as per the worksheet that had been submitted by Sgt. Benjamin. All were in favor with none in opposition and the motion passed. Val also asked Sgt. Benjamin to have LCPD decals applied to two LCPD vehicles that were lacking LCPD decals. A member of the public asked Sgt. Benjamin to re-state the stats regarding the number of vehicles stolen with the keys in them. Representative Hilferty thanked the board for answering questions that she had and stated that she was glad to be back in her district from Baton Rouge. For the new board members, Brian Anderson reviewed the requirements for them regarding financial disclosure forms and an online ethics course requirement. There was no other discussion from the board and no comments from the public.

Brian Anderson then called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Martin Landrieu, it was seconded by Graham Ryan and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.