

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

April 25, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and roll was called. Board members in attendance were: Martin Landrieu, Nancy Lytle, Freddy Yoder, Val Cupit, Brian Anderson and Reid Raymond. A quorum was confirmed. Jeb Bruneau and Graham Ryan arrived at the meeting during the crime report. Also, in attendance were; board accountant Larry Jacobi, attorney Richard Bordelon, LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin, Third District Assistant Commander Lieutenant Gervis Allison, William Rafferty representing Representative Hilferty's office, as well as several members of the public.

Approval of Minutes: Brian Anderson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2019 board meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier in the week. The motion to approve them was made by Reid Raymond, and was seconded by Freddy Yoder. A vote was held and the motion passed with all voting in favor, none opposed.

Crime Report: Lieutenant Gervais Allison began the crime report by announcing that the third district is aware of the concerns regarding crime in Lakeview as well as within the Third District. In recent weeks, sixty property crime cases have been cleared in the Third District. He reviewed several proactive actions that are being taken with the NOPD and members of the juvenile justice system to address the issue of juvenile crime including; the Youth Empowerment Program, the First 72 Program, and the Youth Study Center. Parents are also being informed that they may be held financially liable for the actions of their children. Lieutenant Allison reported that contrary to what some members of the board have previously expressed, the parents of these juveniles are in fact engaged with their children. Lieutenant Allison addressed certain concerns that they have heard from citizens regarding the reporting of crime. He explained that the 'Same Place & Time Rule' is FBI crime reporting rule that allows multiple incidents with multiple victims to be included on one report. Nothing is being ignored and suppressed and the reporting of crimes such as the property crimes of auto-theft and auto-burglaries are being reported as being up. This is not a new policy and the 'Same Place & Time Rule' has been in place and being used for many years.

Freddy Yoder asked how do we keep the reporting of figures on a level playing field so that we know that the numbers that we are reporting the current year against the previous year? It was explained that the victims or number of victims would need to be reported on.

Sgt. Rene Benjamin then reviewed the monthly LCPD crime report for the month of April (attached). There were fourteen property crimes and no persons crimes reported in Lakeview for the month of April. Eleven were auto burglaries, seventeen were targeted. Five of the vehicles were unlocked, five were cleared by arrest. The year-to-date figures were reviewed as well as response times. Sgt.

Benjamin concluded his crime report with a review of tips that Lakeview residents could follow that would result in reducing crime. Several questions were then answered from board members and members of the public. In response to a question from Brian Anderson, Commander Benjamin reported that the car break-ins that are occurring in Lakeview are happening in other parts of the city and that it is not any more common in Lakeview than it is in other parts of the city. Brian Anderson pointed out for the record that Jeb Bruneau and Graham Ryan arrived at the meeting during the crime report.

Financial Report: Larry Jacobi began by reviewing several deadlines that were coming due shortly, including an audit that was due to be completed by the end of June. That audit is expected to be completed in time for the May 24th meeting. The budget has a July 31st deadline and because the board does not meet in July, it must also be completed in time for the June meeting. If the parcel fee charge is to be increased to one hundred and fifty dollars, it must be into the city by September 1st. That fee increase must also be factored into the LCPD budget that is to be submitted to the city by the July 31st.

Board Accountant Larry Jacobi then reviewed the financial statements that were distributed to the board (attached). The only point of note was that collections were behind the same time last year by about forty-five thousand dollars. Everything else was tracking well, and as budgeted.

Mr. Jacobi reviewed a report that anticipated what the board's financial situation would look like on December 31st. Two significant budget items behind patrols were technology & IT equipment that were budgeted sixty-thousand dollars, followed by forty-three thousand dollars budgeted for another patrol vehicle. Projecting the amount of surplus of eighty-nine thousand dollars expected to be carried over into next year, combined with the expected low collections similar to those experiences in the beginning of the year, would leave little-to-no wiggle room for the board to satisfy its cash requirements in the early months of the year until reaching the larger collection months of March and April. The increase in fees from one hundred thirty-five to one hundred fifty dollars per parcel would allow the board to continue to provide the same level of service that they are currently providing. Mr. Jacobi reported that the board no longer has a surplus that it has previously carried and that is necessary to carry the board during the lean months early in the year. Brian Anderson added that this was due to increased patrol costs, both in more patrols as well as higher payroll costs as a result of the pay increase to the police officers. A report from 2016 showed that other than Broadmoor, LCPD was crime prevention district with the lowest fee, with LCPD paying substantially less than the other districts. Sgt. Benjamin stated that he felt that he could not cut patrols and that he actually needed to increase patrols. Martin Landrieu made a motion to amend the agenda to also include a motion to discuss and to increase the parcel fee. The motion was seconded by Nancy Lytle. All were in favor and the motion passed. Freddy Yoder stated that the increase seemed inevitable in order to maintain the same level of service to the LCPD jurisdiction. He didn't want to start cutting very important budget items. He made a motion to increase the current parcel fee of one-hundred thirty-five dollars to one-hundred and fifty dollars. The motion was seconded by Nancy Lytle. Jeb Bruneau asked how much more revenue would that raise and Mr. Jacobi stated that it was ninety-thousand dollars per year. After some discussion, a vote was held and the motion passed with Jeb Bruneau voting opposed and all others voting in favor. Jeb Bruneau requested that LCPD put out a statement explaining the increase to the public. Attorney Richard

Bordelon pointed out to the board that an additional increase from the voters beyond the one hundred fifty dollars per parcel fee would take two more years in order to get through the legislature and to the voters. There was some discussion about pursuing legislation to put an item on the ballot that would allow the board to increase the parcel fee beyond the current one hundred fifty dollars allowed. Brian Anderson suggested that it might be something to address towards the end of the year when the future budget was being discussed.

Administrative Agenda: Technology Report: Brian Anderson reiterated that at the last meeting it had been discussed that the board may consider moving away from its own crime camera program and towards the city's crime camera program. Sgt. Benjamin, Brian Anderson and Reid Raymond were pursuing proposals from vendors that are approved by the city and it was anticipated that a proposal would be presented to the board by the next meeting. He notified the board that if they go with the city's program that the current cameras owned by LCPD, both already installed and the fifty still new in the box may not be compatible with the city's program. Board attorney Richard Bordelon pointed out that the cameras cannot be donated. Larry Jacobi pointed out the in the audit policy that cameras once installed are considered to have zero value, but that control must be maintained on those not yet installed.

Brian Anderson reminded the board that their financial disclosure forms for the previous year of 2018 are due in on May 15th and that online ethics courses by board members are due to be taken by December 31st. Brian Anderson also addressed a comment about concerns about juvenile crime. He stated that he may call for a juvenile crime summit that would include all stakeholders such as judges, city council members, civic association members etc.

A motion for the meeting to adjourn was made by Martin Landrieu, and it was seconded by Nancy Lytle. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:36 pm.