

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

January 24, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Roll was called, in attendance were: Melissa Lessell, Ann Leblanc, Nancy Lytle, Brian Anderson, Freddy Yoder, Reid Raymond. A quorum was confirmed. Jeb Bruneau, Val Cupit, Graham Ryan and Martin Landrieu arrived at the meeting during Sgt. Benjamin's crime report. Also, in attendance were; board accountant Larry Jacobi, attorney Richard Bordelon, LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin and technical advisor Ralph Schindler as well as several members of the public.

Approval of Minutes: Brian Anderson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2018 board meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier in the week. The motion to approve them was made by Melissa Lessell and was seconded by Freddy Yoder. A vote was held and the motion passed with all voting in favor, none opposed.

Crime Report: LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin reviewed the month-to-date crime statistics (attached). He reported that the entire NOPD was experiencing a significant spike in property crime involving vehicles throughout the city. Despite having a high clearance rate in 2018, and despite the 3rd District having the highest clearance rate in auto-thefts and auto-burglaries last year, there was an uptick in seeing repeat juvenile offenders. Police commanders are addressing it on many fronts in hopes of reducing these property crimes. January 2019 compared to January 2018, there were eleven such crimes reported last year compared to eighteen reported the same time this year. Which is a sixty-three percent increase. Most of these vehicles were unlocked. Response times were reviewed and the LCPD response times were about half of the amount of time for the NOPD. LCPD ended the calendar year of 2018 with a four percent reduction in UCR crimes. Sgt. Benjamin ended his presentation with tips that could be followed to reduce crime in the Lakeview area. Those tips included keeping vehicles locked at all times, remove keys key fobs, and firearms from vehicles, call 911 to report all suspicious activity. Doing these things would basically cut crime in half. He then opened the floor up for questions. Brian Anderson asked about a recent news story that ran on TV that reported that police never turned out to a call about four masked men attempting to steal a vehicle in Lakeview. Sgt. Benjamin had researched what had happened in that case. The victim had called 911 and it was written up as a code-one-low priority call. Consequently, NOPD never got the call, it was never dispatched on the radio. Two and a half hours later, the call was assigned to a report unit who went to the address to take a report. Sgt. Benjamin asked that the matter be researched and that they look into why the call was never dispatched. The issue was currently being investigated and will be addressed upon completion of that investigation. Val Cupit asked why was there a two minute and five second hold time for code two calls. Sgt. Benjamin explained that a certain number of questions must be asked in order to properly classify a call and often times it takes a certain amount of time to calm the caller down in order to get these

questions answered. Val Cupit pointed out to the victim involved in this instance, who was present at the meeting, that if it is communicated to the operator that the perpetrator is gone, that the operator will frequently classify the call as not urgent, code one. She added that they should have broadcast that this had just happened in the area. The victim pointed out that there were other calls that were called in as the perpetrators drove away that were also ignored. Ann Leblanc pointed out that it needed to be looked into as to why these other calls were set aside as well. Jeb Bruneau wanted it on the record that he felt that what happened in this case being discussed was highly unacceptable.

Financial Report: Board Accountant Larry Jacobi reviewed the financial statements that were distributed to the board. He included the 2018 and 2019 budget reports in conjunction with the monthly financial report. Larry Jacobi pointed out that there was about fifty-five thousand dollars less at the end of 2018 as there was the same time the previous year. That takes into accounts the accounts payable. On the income statement page there was actually receipts of twenty thousand dollars more in 2018 than in 2017. We were only fifteen thousand dollars more in patrols than what had been budgeted. Mr. Jacobi attributed this to an excellent job by Sgt. Benjamin at managing the patrols. Larry reviewed each of the line items on the 2018 end of the year budget to actual. Mr. Jacobi also reviewed the variances between 2018 against 2017 actuals, line by line. Brian Anderson pointed out that we spent fifty-five thousand dollars more than we brought in but that we had a surplus from a previous year to offset it. Mr. Jacobi explained that items on the variance report that exceed five percent variance, must be addressed. Interest and parcel fees though larger than five percent but were very small numbers. Martin Landrieu asked that going forward that the crime cameras be put in a separate bucket, or line item, so that it could be tracked separately from other line items. Brian Anderson pointed out that the average costs of patrols continues to go up and up and that it was now at forty dollars per hour for the year. Larry Jacobi pointed out that this was because of the city's raises. Freddy Yoder questioned if Lakeview was still getting their fair share of police patrols on a percentage basis that they are paying for to service the Third District and for the people of Lakeview who pay that tax for those police. Brian Anderson replied that he has presented that question to Commander Walls and was assured that we are getting our fair share, but that he does not know it to be true. Questions were raised as to how to properly measure that percentage.

Larry Jacobi cautioned that if collections are slow at the beginning of the year as they tend to be and if we continue to have the same level of patrol costs at that same time that without a surplus from the previous year the board could run out of funds. He added that it is not until March before substantial amounts of cash from collections comes in. The city runs three months back on paying the LCPD their funds. Because of the way that taxes are collected at the beginning of the year, the board may have to tap into the allotted and approved one-hundred and fifty dollars per parcel. With the way that the budget is set up right now. If the board stayed within the budget, the board would only end up with about thirty-thousand dollars of cash at the end of the year as opposed to one-hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Brian Anderson pointed out that numerous rising costs are pointing to the need that the board either needs to spend less or to take in more money. In response to a question from Jeb Bruneau, Larry Jacobi stated that the parcel numbers in Lakeview Crime Prevention District's jurisdiction are steady and are not likely to grow. He added that over ninety-nine percent of the parcel fees are

being collected. Brian Anderson added that in the next couple of months the board would need to begin discussing the issue of either increasing the amount collected or reducing spending.

Larry Jacobi stated that the two audits were expecting to be done no later than the end of April which would give enough time for the required submission to the city.

Public Comments: Brian Anderson called for comments from the public and there were none.

Administrative Agenda: Technology Report: Brian Anderson reported that on December 5th, he, along with Martin Landrieu, Graham Ryan, and Richard Bordelon from the LCPD, met via conference call and in person at the Real-Time Crime Center with; someone from Representative Hilferty's office, someone from the mayor's office, the attorney for the mayor's office, members of the Real-Time Crime Center, and a representative from New Orleans Homeland Security. As a result of that meeting, the mayor's office was going to put together a cooperative endeavor agreement that was expected by Monday January 28th. A committee had been established at the previous LCPD meeting to review that document. Brian Anderson expressed that he was expecting to receive the contract that he had been authorized by the board to negotiate with A.J. Labourdette and he would present that contract to the board when he received it. A.J. Labourdette was open to the third option, regarding the owning of the software, that the board had proposed.

Reid Raymond reported on two action items. The first one was that the city was now offering what they called Safe-Cam Premium, Safe-Cam Premium is a program where they are offering to install cameras on the homes of individual homeowners. This will be competing with what LCPD was offering. Ralph Schindler was putting together a costs analysis comparing the two offerings. Brian Anderson added that the homeowner buys a camera from a third-party vendor that is installed. He added that the prices are comparable to the LCPD offering. The private citizen can pay monthly to have their camera feed go straight to the Real-Time Crime Center. With the LCPD offering, LCPD, and not the homeowner, pays the fee to the Real-Time Crime Center. He said the question of LCPD looking a sponsoring camera through the city's program, versus building its own camera program, will be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss. Reid Raymond and Val Cupit also stated that LCPD would be adding a page on the LCPD website that would allow citizens to provide video from their security cameras to law enforcement. Brian Anderson reviewed the LCPD Crime Camera statistics and explained that the company that was previously doing their installs was being sold and that that he would be going through the process of finding a new installer.

Brian Anderson also reminded the board members that because it is a new year, that they would need to have their financial disclosure statements in by May 15 for the previous year of 2018 and that the online ethics course is due to be taken by the end of the year for this year.

Public Comments: Brian Anderson called for public comments. A member of the public stated that three years ago, he had a bay boat stolen and that by personally investigating it himself for three years, he said he was able to find out who stole it and found out where the boat and the motor were. He reviewed what he claimed were several failures of authorities in other jurisdictions to follow up on

investigating it. He stated that his point was that the crime cameras are great, but if there is no-one to do the work of investigating then cameras are a waste of time.

A motion was called for the meeting to adjourn. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.