

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

September 26, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Freddy Yoder called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. He announced that Brian Anderson was unable to attend the meeting because he was out of town on business. Roll was called. Board members in attendance were Val Cupit, Freddy Yoder, Nancy Lytle, Reid Raymond, Melissa Lessell, Graham Ryan. A quorum was confirmed. Ann Leblanc arrived shortly after roll was called. Also, in attendance were; board accountant Larry Jacobi and LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin. Board members Jeb Bruneau and Martin Landrieu and board attorney Richard Bordelon arrived during the crime report. Several members of the community were in attendance as well.

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

Crime Report: Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the current month's Crime Report (attached). He announced that crimes were down for N.O.P.D. in every category except auto-burglaries and shootings. Auto-burglaries are up seventy-eight percent city-wide and shootings are up four percent. He reviewed the details of several of the crimes that occurred in Lakeview including a number of auto-burglaries. Crime camera videos revealed that the perpetrators broke the windows of the vehicles without even trying the door handles to see if they were unlocked. Shoplifting, thefts of a boat and trailer and a theft at the Dollar Tree, all in Lakeview, were also discussed. There was also a homicide that occurred on the Lakeview side of City Park Avenue and Canal. In addition to the murder victim, five others were shot. That crime was solved by arrest. Though only eighteen years of age, the perpetrator has a long arrest record.

Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the Lakeview UCR statistics, as well as LCPD response times. Response time has gone down in part because of new training of dispatchers. Sgt. Benjamin concluded his report by reviewing tips that residents could follow in order to reduce crime. He then reviewed strategies that were being taken by LCPD and NOPD in order to reduce crimes as well. These strategies included checkpoints as one of their methods. Val Cupit had several questions including about where the perpetrator of the murder was being jailed, as well as about the recovery of guns stolen in Lakeview. Sgt. Benjamin advised that he had received no information about the recovery of the approximately six firearms that were stolen in Lakeview year-to-date. She also advised the public that in order to not disturb or contaminate crime scenes, to be careful about how they manage their property such as cars when it has been involved in a crime. Freddy pointed out that board members Jeb Bruneau and Martin Landrieu and that board attorney Richard Bordelon arrived during the crime report.

Financial Report: Larry Jacobi reviewed the financial statements that had been passed out to the board. Two points of interest on the balance sheets were that the cash on hand at Capital One is four

hundred thirty-four thousand, two-hundred-and-four. The accounts-payable, the bills from the city of New Orleans for LCPD's patrols that accrue, as of September fourteenth through the end of the month, which was the time for the last payment, is thirty-six thousand dollars. Right now, LCPD is averaging about thirty-one thousand, five hundred dollars per bill. He reviewed the profit and loss statement through September nineteen, stating that it is comparative to last year. We are only about eight thousand dollars behind in income this year compared to last year. He noted that with the exception of office supplies, at one hundred and five dollars, all the variances for expenditures are positive. That means that we are less than projected budget. No payments were received from the city in the month of September. The actual income from January through September compared to our year-to-date budget, shows that we only received about twenty-four thousand, four-hundred-and-thirty-six. Larry Jacobi added that based on what we received in the months of October, November and December of last year, he didn't believe that we would make that number and estimated that it would be more like eighteen thousand five hundred. Patrols were at six hundred and two thousand. This shows that we would have another two hundred and eighty thousand to be within budget, however, based on the past six months, he anticipated that it would be closer to two fifty. Larry Jacobi pointed out that in the first two months of the year, that payments from the city are very slow and that based on projections, LCPD would end up with only having only twenty-four thousand dollars in the bank. That would be with zero dollars spent on IT. For that reason, he suggested that LCPD hold off on ordering the car until February which would put paying for it in about March or April. The board needs to be conservative in its expenditures through February of two thousand twenty. Graham Ryan made a motion that the board defer the purchase of the patrol vehicle until in February of next year. The motion was seconded by Jeb Bruneau. A vote was held and all were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments: Freddy Yoder called for comments from the public and there were none. There was some discussion about where to place public comments on future agendas, however no decisions were made and nothing was changed.

Crime Camera Update: Reid Raymond gave a review of the LCPD's crime camera program's timeline. Letters were sent out to camera hosts about up-grading the cameras and a new consent form that would be required. The contract between LCPD and the vendor was in final draft. A summary of bids for the cameras was provided to the board. Reid Raymond sought the board's approval to select the lowest bidder for replacing the cameras. Freddy Yoder inquired as to if all of the bidders were bidding the exact same thing and that if the specifications for the bid were specific enough so that there would be no mis-understandings as to what was expected with the contract. It was pointed out that the cameras that are currently in use, because of their connection with China, are now prohibited by the US government and cannot be connected to the Real-Time Crime Center's system. Ann Leblanc made a motion to go with Epi-Tec (sp?) as the camera replacement and installation vendor. It was seconded by Graham Ryan. There was no discussion. Martin Landrieu called for the vote. A vote was held and the motion carried with all in favor. Freddy Yoder complimented Reid on the job that he did with the crime camera bids. There would be no up-front money. Reid Raymond was having the responsibility for retrieving the video from the old cameras shifted from Ralph Schindler to Reid Raymond. This would not be an issue with the new cameras.

A discussion was held regarding some criticisms that had been voiced regarding the crime camera program. Martin Landrieu stated that he had heard that the new cameras are not as good as the old

cameras. He stated that the vendor selected had been previously vetted and approved by the city. It was pointed out that some of the criticisms that were heard about the cameras were from a vendor who was interested in getting the contract to monitor LCPDs cameras instead of the city's Real-Time Center monitoring them. Graham Ryan noted that the new cameras integrate with the Real-Time Crime Center, the old cameras do not and they pre-dated the existence of the Real-Time Crime Center, and that they are being replaced so that they will integrate with the Real-Time Crime Center. Val Cupit reported that the NOPD did receive footage from one of the existing LCPD crime cameras, however it was not known what if any benefit that video provided in helping to solve that murder that occurred at Canal and City Park Avenue. The footage was retrieved from the camera by Ralph who provided it to Val who in turn provided it to the NOPD.

Freddy Yoder recognized State Representative Stephanie Hilferty and stated that he would give her an opportunity to speak after another piece of board business was covered. He then reminded the board that they are required to take the state online ethics course before the end of the year and that there are penalties associated with not getting that done in time. Night out against crime would be on October 15 before the next meeting. Val Cupit said that there were currently thirteen block parties that were registered and she would send the list out to the board members so that they could visit those block-parties. Representative Hilferty thanked the board for the work that they do and offered her assistance if needed. Freddy Yoder then called for a motion to adjourn. The motion for the meeting to adjourn was made by Ann Leblanc, and it was seconded by Melissa Lessell. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 pm.