

**LAKEVIEW CRIME PREVENTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2015
ST. DOMINIC RECTORY
875 HARRISON AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70124**

Present: Freddie Yoder (Chairman), Reid Raymond, Martin Landrieu, Joe Giarrusso, Wally Landry, Brian Anderson, Nancy Lytle, Leland Champagne, Val Cupit, and Jeb Bruneau

Also present: Larry Jacobi, (Board accountant), Richard Bordelon (Board attorney), Sgt. Rene Benjamin (Lakeview Crime Prevention District Commander), Commander Gary Marchese, (Third District Commander), Sgt. Christopher Prochaska, (Third District Quality of Life Officer), and members of the public.

Mr. Yoder called the meeting to order shortly after 6:00 p.m. Roll was called and all commissioners were present.

Opening Statement from the Chair

Mr. Yoder began the meeting with an opening statement generally discussing the history of the Lakeview Crime Prevention District (“LCPD”). He recalled that crime was high in Lakeview in 1996, which led to enabling legislation in 1997 to create the LCPD. The LCPD is the first crime prevention district in Louisiana. Since its inception, the LCPD has contracted with the City of New Orleans to provide additional security by using New Orleans police officers to patrol Lakeview.

In making his presentation, Mr. Yoder noted that this meeting saw the largest number of neighborhood attendees. He reminded the audience that one of the fiduciary duties of the Board is carefully reviewing the budget to decide how best to deploy its economic resources. He also introduced Sgt. Benjamin who has been the LCPD Commander for the last two years. In addition, after the meeting, Mr. Raymond hosted a Neighborhood Crime Meeting.

Next, Mr. Yoder walked through an extensive PowerPoint presentation regarding the LCPD, its history, crime statistics, etc. The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the LCPD’s website. As part of the presentation, the current crime statistics for Lakeview were provided. There were 23 property crimes in July 2015 and 19 property crimes in August 2015.¹ Mr. Yoder and Sgt. Benjamin noted that burglary was down 56%, and auto burglary was down 4%.² Notably, to date, crime is down 16% through this point last year.

¹ See pg. 2 of August 27, 2015 Report prepared by Sgt. Benjamin.

² See pg. 7 of August 27, 2015 Report prepared by Sgt. Benjamin.

Mr. Yoder and Sgt. Benjamin echoed a common concern-that not enough Lakeview residents lock their vehicles (this is a frequent topic discussed at past LCPD meetings). In fact, nearly ~85% of automobile burglaries result from Lakeview residents failing to lock their cars.³ Sgt. Benjamin stressed the importance of locking cars to help reduce crime. Residents were again reminded to remove all valuables from their cars and trucks. Finally, the City Council has passed an ordinance to reduce the number of false house alarms. Sgt. Benjamin reported 131 false alarms this month in Lakeview.

CPA Presentation

The next presentation was made by Mr. Jacobi who provided the Board with the proposed budget for 2016. In order to present the budget to the City of New Orleans on a reasonable timeline, the Board decided last year to begin the budgeting process earlier.

Mr. Jacobi then dived into his presentation. Based on his projections, the current revenue projection for 2016 is \$820,800 (the projection is based on the number of parcels collected from (6912), multiplying the total number of parcels by the \$125 LCPD fee, and assumes a 95% collection rate). The City controls how many parcels are accounted for, not the LCPD.⁴ Mr. Jacobi also reminded the Board that the LCPD – as a political subdivision – is subject to certain reserve requirements. Additionally, he reminded the Board that beginning this part year, the LCPD increased its revenue by collecting on unimproved parcels. According to Mr. Jacobi, the hourly rate for police officers to be paid by the LCPD is \$25/hour, which is based on an average (so the actual number may be higher or lower depending on the officer's rank). Mr. Jacobi also considered that the NOPD will receive 5% pay increase.

In the disbursement section of the worksheet, Mr. Jacobi noted that the Board is potentially considering buying two new police cruisers at a total cost of \$85,000. This cost is to ensure the vehicle is fully equipped and similar to other NOPD cruisers. Mr. Jacobi further stated that it may be necessary to buy as many as three new vehicles. Thereafter, Mr. Jacobi went over other line items in the proposed budget.

Mr. Jacobi explained a slight uptick in litigation costs last year as a result of inspector general's investigation and the election for the continuance of the LCPD. Mr. Jacobi calculated the surplus for 2016 to be \$155,125. The surplus can be spent on additional patrols, equipment (such as additional cruisers), or other approved crime fighting equipment. Given this year's projected surplus, it would be possible for Sgt. Benjamin to schedule additional shifts. Historically, how to use the surplus has been in the discretion of the LCPD commander. IN terms of equipment, the LCPD has considered using equipment and, if buying new police squad cars, must consider not only the purchase of the new cruisers but also existing maintenance on existing cruisers in the fleet – many of which have over 200,000 miles on them.

³ See pg. 7 of August 27, 2015 Report prepared by Sgt. Benjamin.

⁴ The City charges a 1% administrative fee for collecting the LCPD fees.

Mr. Landrieu asked some questions of Mr. Jacobi relating to the amount of surplus and revenue generated this year as opposed to years past. Moreover, there were questions raised whether Sgt. Benjamin could muster additional manpower but Sgt. Benjamin did not anticipate that being an issue. The projected surplus for this year is \$238,878. The Board discussed its earlier consideration of buying cruisers last year but deferred making any decision on such purchases until the OPSE issue was sorted out. The Board was reminded that 98% of the Lakeview Crime Prevention District's funds are used on patrols and equipment. The Board will need to consider at the September meeting how to use its surplus from this year and the projected surplus for 2016.

Old Business

After these presentations, Mr. Yoder asked for approval of the June 25, 2015 minutes. Mr. Giarrusso moved to accept the June 25, 2015 minutes and Mr. Champagne seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Yoder reminded the board of the departure of Roy Arrigo, thanking him for his service to the community and the LCPD. Mr. Arrigo was responsible for a number of tasks including the handling of publicly placing (a) the agenda, (b) the approved minutes, (c) crime statistics and (d) financial reports on the LCPD website. As the newest member of the Board, Ms. Lytle will continue taking the minutes with Mr. Bruneau acting as her potential back-up. Lastly, Mr. Yoder noted that the Board reviews bank statements to monitor expenditures.

New Business

Mr. Bordelon will provide a resolution from the LCPD to the City outlining the fee and millage per parcel of property for 2016. That resolution will be made available at the next Board meeting. In addition, Board will discuss the 2016 itemized budget at the next meeting.

The next discussion concerned Mr. Giarrusso's seat on the Board. Mr. Giarrusso is appointed by Councilwoman Guidry. His term runs concurrently with Councilwoman Guidry's term. Mr. Giarrusso, however, will be President of the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association ("LCIA") in 2016, and as a result, he could potentially occupy two Board positions beginning next year (one through his appointment by Councilwoman Guidry and the other through his designation as LCIA President). He did not want to occupy two seats on the LCPD and deprive someone else from serving on the Board. Therefore, Mr. Giarrusso will resign his commission through Councilwoman Guidry effective December 31, 2015 and will begin serving as a commissioner through his LCIA appointment beginning on January 1, 2016. It is anticipated that Brian Anderson will become the commissioner appointed by Councilwoman Guidry thereafter on January 1, 2016.

Questions from the Public

The Board and the audience engaged in an extensive question and answer period, including but not limited to the following topics:

- How the commissioners are appointed and where they live;
- Spending LCPD funds on additional equipment (including crime camera);
- Spending LCPD funds on GPS in squad cars to verify that the cars are rolling in the neighborhood;
- The LCPD's contract with the City, use of police officers, and consideration to other personal security measures;
- Other questions relating to spending of LCPD funds; and,
- The desire/need to lower or raise the annual parcel fee.

At 8:50, Mr. Champagne moved to adjourn the meeting which Mr. Landrieu seconded. The meeting was adjourned at that time.