

Lakeview Crime Prevention District  
Board Meeting Minutes from meeting of November 19, 2015  
St. Dominic Rectory  
775 Harrison Avenue, NOLA, 70124

**Call to order and roll call**

The meeting started at 6:16 p.m.

In attendance during the meeting were:

Val Cupit

Nancy Lytle

John Grillot

Wally Landry

Brian Anderson

Reid Raymond

Freddy Yoder

Joe Giarrusso

Jeb Bruneau

Martin Landrieu

Also present was accountant Larry Jacobi as well as lawyer Richard Bordelon and LCPD Commander Rene Benjamin.

**Opening Remarks/Approval of Minutes:**

Freddy Yoder: We need to add that Brian Anderson for the October meeting to the minutes that were circulated earlier which was done. Nancy Lytle moved to approve; Brian seconded. All were in favor.

**Old Business**

Formation and discussion of new Camera Research Committee-report from Brian  
Brian Anderson advised that the subcommittee on a camera program met before the general LCPD meeting. The public and vendors were invited; meeting was advertised in the newspaper, the LCPD website and front door of the rectory. A dozen or so people attended. One vendor show up. Different types of programs were discussed. The plan is to move forward to receive solicitations for services rather than products. It was agreed to invite Ralph Schindler to be the technical advisor of the committee. The subcommittee also agreed to table the discussion on monitoring station until move further toward RFQ's. The subcommittee heard from an expert on how to improve the ability to report developments to the public utilizing things at our disposal such as Facebook and our website.

The next meeting will be held December 3 at 6 p.m. Brian will post status updates on the website and Facebook.

Further discussion concerning need for professional to handle posting the status and updates LCPD: IT, Facebook, Website, etc.

Freddy: Discussion turned to whether we should pay part time IT guy, someone other than Ralph who strictly volunteers his time and someone who understands how all of the internet sources are tied together and whether to have Facebook page. Reid brought up fact that website went down and whether that is acceptable since it provides all the details about LCPD, crime stats, agendas, minutes, etc. Reid said it was up to us to determine how important it is to make sure website is operational 24/7 and to maintain the LCPD brand. Regarding Facebook, it is important to get correct fact-based message out there to dispel any rumors that may arise on other sites (Freddy). Question was raised whether we need someone like Jeff Januszek to run FB page for us. It takes a lot of work to check FB daily (Reid). Wally asked if we hired someone whether we would have to do an RFQ and Richard was not sure. Val Cupit mentioned that she knew a Lakeview resident who is able to do what Jeff recommended at the last meeting and is very attune to crime in the area.

Freddy pointed out that last thing we need is someone without the organization providing unfiltered information. There would need to be a spokesperson (president) who worked with anyone helping with FB and provide one voice for LCPD.

John Grillot asked if we had a FB page, and the answer was yes. Jeb checked and there were hits on the LCPD FB page as early as August. Questions were raised about whether board voted on having a FB page. Freddy asked if we can put on the agenda for January meeting, and Joe Giarrusso moved that it be put on this agenda. Jeb seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion turned to whether we should hire someone. Brian stated the issue is broken down into parts. If FB or website goes down, we need someone to fix it. Second, we need someone to post on FB and monitor it. Brian moved to maintain FB page that we currently have, Jeb seconded and all were in favor.

Brian then moved to make motion to solicit bids for a person to maintain the IT support on website and FB. Wally Landry seconded the motion. John asked what does hiring IT person have to do with fighting crime. Brian: we owe it to constituents to give information in a timely manner. Freddy: putting procedure in place allows people who live here to feel more comfortable and safe, which is as important as patrols. Nancy: by not educating the public with facts that exist, we wind up getting in trouble.

Martin Landrieu indicated that he was not 100% sold because agenda made up of yard signs, newsletter, website, publishing minutes. Are we spending too much time on communication and not patrols? Are we losing focus? Martin would only be in support if we limit the amount of money dedicated to IT.

In terms of the budgeting for this, Brian said we already have in the budget \$2400 for newsletter. The budget will probably have to be amended. Richard noted whoever is retained for this has to be independent contractor not employee.

Brian motion: we solicit bids for IT services to maintain the website and FB page and to assist in posting approved information in a timely fashion for an hourly rate not to exceed the budgeted amount in 2016. Joe seconded. Nancy indicated there are ways to keep cost down. Reid can keep doing website. All were in favor.

## **New Business**

### Status, cost and approval of the process to get the monthly LCPD minutes published

Freddy: we have struggled getting minutes published on this board. Ann LeBlanc has agreed to type minutes for \$200 a month. No budget item for it. We will put on the agenda in January amendment of the budget to include this item.

### Status, of the quarterly Newsletter, Mailing Labels, organization/coordination by Nancy.

Newsletters. Nancy: plan is to mail out newsletters first of 2016. Cynthia Hayes has agreed to do it. Nancy is still trying to get bids on:

Printing of NL

Attaching decals

Putting address on NL themselves, digital versus an adhesive label.

### Status of car stickers

Nancy has also researched cost of the decals for back of the cars. She learned that if we go with reflective (which was consensus at last meeting), only last four years. Everyone seemed to think that was fine. Gino (from audience) asked why it was taking so long. He had given a quote for 15 cents a sticker. Nancy: at last meeting a lot of ideas were raised which changed the direction we were going into such as wanting reflective outside the vehicle versus nonreflective inside. Freddy asked that Nancy have prices for decals for the January meeting, and we will make decision on who to choose. She will also have more information on newsletter.

\*Freddy had to leave the meeting and Jeb took over.

### Status of Yard (LCPD address) signs

Nancy is having trouble getting two other bidders who will sell directly to the buyers. Brian asked since we are not buying the signs, whether we had to get three bids and Richard said only need a contract which he would draw up. Nancy moved that we work with vendor who has agreed to do this and advertise the service so that the decals can be made available to Lakeview residents. Joe seconded. Brian amended the motion to authorize the board to promote the program. Martin seconded and all were in favor.

### Comments from Larry Jacobi or attorney

No reports from Richard Bordelon. Larry Jacobi says he started solicitation on insurance. The person we have been working with at Delahoussaye firm, Susan Meyers, is changing firms. We have been assigned a new person which is not a problem. The cost is very close to last year's. Larry does not anticipate much of an increase. He will have the

quote for the January meeting. It was also noted that board members had to send in Ethics disclosure forms. This applies to the previous year, so someone not on the board this year will still have to submit one of these forms. Richard will send a reminder.

\*Jeb suggested that at the next meeting Sgt. Benjamin and Larry's reports be moved up on the agenda.

#### Crime Statistic Report by Commander Rene Benjamin

Report on stats attached.

Martin asked three questions. Was there a lot of trouble with football at Tadd Gormley?. Sgt. Benjamin stated that other than a few fights, there were not significant issues. He had two cars assigned to big events. The second question was how he planned to handle Christmas for Harrison avenue. He will have a separate patrol (split foot and vehicle) from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. during the holidays. Martin also asked if escort system was used. Sgt. Benjamin stated it was not used that much. Available from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Sgt. Benjamin mentioned the 41 cars being vandalized on Argonne between Filmore and Robert E. Lee involved side view mirrors being damaged. There are five videos but they are not very clear. The suspects are two white males that live in the area. There were eight criminal damage reports. He suspects alcohol may have been involved. Val mentioned they have dusted for prints on the Argonne incident and are awaiting results.

Reid Raymond mentioned that he went through the raw data on response times and the numbers presented by Sgt. Benjamin are not fudged.

Re: aggravated burglary on Argonne and Porteus, they are awaiting DNA.

There was an incident reported on Gino's facebook page about a woman claiming she was a victim of armed robbery outside of Reginellis. Gino discussed with Sgt. Benjamin, who spoke with her husband. She was too distraught to talk with police and never called back. He encouraged her to go to the third district and file a report and none has been filed. Val called Reginellis and they knew nothing about it.

Sgt. Benjamin also did a report on current fleet of vehicles based on request last time. He stated instead of two cars next year, he would prefer three with one of the cars being damaged since the last meeting. Martin suggested that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting whether to increase the vehicles to three.

#### Larry Jacobi's financial report

See attached. We are very close to being on target budget wise this year. He will have a report of budget variances at the next meeting.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Final note, no meeting next month. John moved to adjourn and Joe seconded. All were in favor.