

Lakeview Crime Prevention District  
Board Meeting Minutes from meeting of October 22, 2015  
St. Dominic Rectory  
775 Harrison Avenue, NOLA, 70124

**Call to order and roll call**

The meeting started at 6 p.m. and present were:

Val Cupit

Nancy Lytle

John Grillot

Martin Landrieu

Wally Landry

Leland Champagne

Reid Raymond

Freddy Yoder

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

**Opening Remarks/Approval of Minutes:**

Freddy Yoder mentioned that the minutes from the last two meetings were difficult to obtain. It took a paralegal seven hours to transcribe them. A recorder was helpful, but it is important that people do not speak over each other and wait to be recognized.

He called for approval of minutes from both the August and September meetings. There was one or two missing names in the minutes. **Motion** to approve was made by John Grillot and seconded by Nancy Lytle. All were in favor.

Freddy reminded that this meeting is taped and will be used to prepare the minutes.

**Presentation of the financial reports by Larry Jacobi and Sudie Sutter our CPAs**

Larry Jacobi handed out financial information, which is attached. On the last page it shows comparison of income expenses for this year and year to date last year. On the revenue side, \$845,503 has been collected. This is \$19,596 short of our total projected for the year. We should collect the difference from October, November and December. Richard forwarded the 2016 budget to the City Council. Larry wanted to remind the board, if there is more than 5% variance from the budget on any one line item, we have to amend the budget by approval of the board and resubmit to legislative audit office. We will have that prepared for January meeting. Larry requested it be on the agenda for January. LCPD submits its budget to the legislative auditor every year even though LCPD is only required to do so every other year.

Larry commented that the calendar that was put in place has made the procedure of adopting and approving the budget by City Council work very well. Working on the

budget as early as August for review and approval of the board in September ensures it is received by the City Council on time.

There was extensive discussion on number of cars budgeted for 2016 in light of planned purchase in 2015. Martin Landrieu asked whether LCPD needed a total of eight new cars over two years and asked whether moneys should be used more for patrols. Larry explained that the reason a total of four cars will be bought in 2015 is because in 2014, even though two cars were budgeted, they were not purchased because of concerns of LCPD's existence in light of the consent decree issues. Four more cars are slated for 2016. Sgt. Benjamin was asked a number of questions and he ultimately stated he probably didn't need eight new cars. Freddy recommended that we go forward with ordering two more cars this year and buy two more next year which will mean a total of six new cars over three years. He noted that this will affect the surplus projected in 2015 of \$124K. The fact that there have been increased patrols will also affect this number.

John Grillot asked how many total vehicles there were and Sgt. Benjamin noted we have 14. We keep them until NOPD maintenance refuses to repair. One of the vehicles is over 200K miles and the other one is close to that mileage. The expense to LCPD is purchase only. NOPD pays maintenance and gasoline. Brian asked Sgt. Benjamin if he could produce a list of how many cars we have, the years purchased and how many miles they have on them and he said he could.

Brian initially made a **motion** to purchase two new cars and Val seconded. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and Brian made a new **motion**: The Board approves purchase of two new cars this year based on budgeted availability of funds. Also, that the board requests review of itemized list of vehicles in service now, history wise, before we discuss whether we are going to buy four new cars next year. John Grillot seconded and all were in favor.

## **Old Business**

1. House residential and alley address signs (LCPD) for sale to residents-Nancy to discuss. Freddy mentioned that this was a carryover from the last meeting because it went so long. Nancy reported that depending on whether to get reflective or nonreflective, the cost ranges from \$12.50 (nonreflective) plus \$2.50 for shipping to \$19.59 (reflective) plus \$2.50 for shipping. She received another bid and it was more. She needs to get a third bid. She recommends that the signs be ordered by residents who want them directly from the vendor which is how this would be done. Because it will have LCPD logo on the sign, Richard stated that it will have to go through the process. There was discussion about whether the logo should be on it and Nancy said she thought it was a good idea to have the LCPD name on the sign. Brian asked if Richard could explain the process. Richard explained that the recommendations from the legislative auditor for purchases between \$1k and \$10K are: three telephonic or faxed quotes, written confirmation of acceptance placed in the file, and if the lowest bid is rejected there has to be reasons in the file. For purchases between \$10K and \$29,999, law requires the above. If the purchase is greater than \$30K you have to go to public bid.

Val made a **motion** to allow Nancy to follow this process and get three quotes for the LCPD signs. John Grillot seconded. A question from the audience was asked as to where payment would be made and whether there would be sales tax. Nancy stated payment would be made by the resident to the vendor and there would be no sales tax. All were in favor of the motion.

2. Status of resolution dated September 24, 2015, approving budget for 2016 and transmittal letter to the city dated October 2, 2015-Richard Bordelon confirmed that this had been done. Freddy asked that Richard follow up. Richard would contact Suchitra Satpathi with the city to do so.

3. NOPD moves forward with selection of a vendor to monitor the False Alarms Program. Freddy: Vendor will get compensation. There will be fines associated with multiple false alarms. He asked Sgt. Benjamin when charge of \$75 would be charged and the answer was after three false alarms.

### **New Business**

1. Because of Thanksgiving, it is necessary to move the November meeting to November 19, 2015. Reminder this is the last meeting of the year. **Motion** to have meeting on November 19 was made by Wally Landry, seconded by John Grillot. There was no discussion, and all were in favor.

2. Discussion concerning the immediate purchase and distribution of the car stickers (LCPD) Freddy Yoder and Nancy Lytle. Freddy thinks it is important to address this with the hope that during the first meeting in January, we can obtain approval and move forward. Nancy took lead on getting prices on it as well. She stated she had started getting prices from vendors for approximately 6900-7K properties (she is working with Claude Mauberret to confirm the number of properties). Quotes coming in around 13 cents apiece; she has not gotten three quotes yet. The size would be 2.88 by 4.75 oval sized. There are two types: adhesive decal where paper comes off front and sticks inside the vehicle. The reflective would have to be put on outside vehicle. The reflective is considerably more expensive. There was extensive discussion about whether interior would be seen from inside a tinted window, whether the size was too big, whether the outside sticker would be stolen, whether LCPD should instead use a generic dot sticker like in other neighborhoods which could only be recognizable by the neighbors and police, etc. Freddy voiced opinion that he wants LCPD logo because of all that LCPD has done for the last 17 years. Brian said he saw the sign more for safety than marketing and Freddy thought it could serve both purposes.

Brian made a **motion** that we allow Nancy (in accordance with the above process) solicit bids for small reflective exterior oval stickers with LCPD logo. The motion was seconded by Wally Landry. All were in favor. Freddy asked that Nancy try and get this done by the next meeting in November so we can vote on it. Nancy discussed possibly putting the stickers in the first newsletter to go out. There was also discussion on how many to order initially and the cost of postage.

3. Discussion of the need to form a committee to begin discussion of pricing, practical location, contracting, etc. of cameras to be acted upon in early 2016-Propose Brian Anderson Chairman. Freddy: Request of our attorney to research the need to bid this specialty item publicly. Richard says have to be cognizant of public meeting laws with any subcommittee. There was discussion about having a couple of people which may take it out of public meeting requirements. However, Brian stated he liked the idea of having enough people to fully investigate the issue and thinks the public meeting requirement could be easily met by meeting before or after LCPD board meetings. Wally Landry indicated he was passionate about cameras and would be willing to serve on the committee. Richard recommended having odd number on the committee. Reid stated first job of the committee would be to put together an RFQ.

John Grillot made a **motion** to study the cameras, cost and location, pricing, practicality and contracting of camera system with Brian Anderson as the head and a total of five commissioners. Wally seconded. Discussion turned to questions about more specific set of requirements of a camera system by Reid. John amended his **motion** to appoint Brian Anderson as committee head with four others to discuss crime camera program and make recommendations to the board. Wally seconded. Martin asked how committee members would be selected and the response was the chairman, Brian, would do so. All were in favor.

4. Discussion of approved newsletter publication in 2016. Nancy looked into who should prepare and at what cost, etc. Nancy handed out a copy of a newsletter done in the past by Cynthia Hayes. Ms. Hayes offered to do it for \$40. The newsletter would be on 11 x 17 glossy finished paper and folded in such a way where there would be four pages. Nancy's recommendation would be to stay with Cynthia. Richard was asked if we had to go through bidding process and he said we had a contract with her in the past so no. There was extensive discussion about whether to mail the newsletter, the cost of first class mailing versus bulk mailing, etc. Suggestion was to have one printed newsletter at the first or last quarters of the year and have newsletter on website the other three quarters of the year. The printed newsletter would advertise that other newsletters would be available on the website.

Wally Landry made a **motion** to have Nancy continue her effort to work in line with the process to investigate previous contract with Cynthia Hayes and form a new contract to continue our LCPD newsletter production, four times a year, with one printed and mailed and all on website. Brian seconded. Brian mentioned when we print the newsletter, we print extras to place in businesses and the library, etc. Freddy noted that because some people own property in Lakeview but don't live here, some of the newsletters will be sent to possibly other states. All were in favor.

5. Discussion about minutes and Freddy reiterated how long it took the Denechaud and Denechaud, LLC law firm to transcribe the minutes of the last two meetings. Richard said the video did not provide a good source for the minutes. Freddy mentioned how it is unfair to have a board commissioner take the minutes. There was discussion

about a court reporter or paralegal being hired to do the minutes and it was agreed that this would be expensive and a court reporter's transcript would not be reflective of the LCPD minutes historically. Nancy recommended having someone like Ann LeBlanc do the minutes for a reasonable fee. Martin asked if the minutes could simply be the audio recording and Richard said need it published in writing. Leland made a **motion** to use office supply money to purchase an additional recorder and hire Richard's firm to transcribe the minutes. Richard indicated that would cost \$100 an hour and Leland withdrew the motion. Nancy made **motion** to research our options for a reasonably priced person capable of taking the minutes at future board meetings. Leland seconded. All were in favor. Freddy said that person would have to attend meetings. Video alone does not work.

6. Presence of Facebook and getting info out to community. Freddy asked Jeff Januszek, who specializes in social media, to give a presentation on Facebook. He gave a presentation on the benefits of social media, namely to control information, get LCPD brand out there, and make an emotional connection with the audience. Brian weighed in on how Facebook has been effective for LCIA in that messages are spreading to thousands of people quickly just with one post. There were concerns expressed because LCPD has an obligation to deal in facts more than emotions and social media is emotional, whether it is a good idea to use Facebook (Martin). Freddy pointed out that the job of LCPD is to ensure public safety and asked how Facebook could accomplish that. Val thought it would as evident in the responses she receives from her massive eblasts about criminal activity. Member of the audience from Project NOLA, discussed how beneficial Facebook would be if there is another catastrophe like Katrina. Discussion turned to about the dialogue feature of Facebook, and Jeff said even with negative dialogue, as long as the writer is acknowledged, it usually results in effective communication. Freddy stated that we were just discussing this now and we can discuss at the next meeting if we want to go forward.

7. Presentation on finalized website. Reid Raymond stated the website is as the board requested. The cost was \$600. He asked some questions about what LCPD's obligation was to keep the website up and running 24/7 in light of it going down the other day. Freddy said obviously have to keep public abreast to what is going on. The question was then asked who backs up Ralph Schindler who provides technical support and whether Ralph is compensated for his work for LCPD and the answer was there was no backup and no compensation. Freddy stated to ensure accountability and in fairness need to have some type of compensation. Richard said three bid process would be required. Martin recommended that it be taken up at next meeting. John Grillot made **motion** to table discussion of financial compensation for technical support. There was no second. The motion died. Freddy indicated he would put it on the next agenda.

**Presentation of our crime statistics by Commander Rene Benjamin.** See attached.

Some highlights of Sgt. Benjamin's report were that there have been seven Lakeview persons crimes this year compared to twelve the same time last year. This is a 58% reduction. There has been a 75% clearance rate on armed robbery arrestes. Regarding

the July 29, 2015 armed robbery, there have been arrests made. There was discussion about Jeff Asher article which clearly shows that compared to areas with private security, Lakeview's crime is down (Val). She thanked the LCPD officers and Commander Benjamin. Big part of property crimes remains to be unlocked vehicles (Sgt. Benjamin).

**Final comments by Freddy**

Freddy wanted to thank Nancy for assisting in presentation at Mondo designed to educate restaurants/businesses on what to do to prevent armed robberies of patrons and what to do if they occur. The presentation was put on by 3<sup>rd</sup> district officers. Nancy did leg work on invitations. The participants were not many but Freddy thinks this should be done again, perhaps at a better time.

**Any additional comments from our attorney or CPA.** None.

**Questions/Comments from the public.**

Question was asked about previous question at previous meeting about putting GPS in police cars and what happened to that. Freddy said it was done. Six of the cars have GPS.

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. made by Wally Landry and Val seconded. All were in favor.