

Lakeview Crime Prevention District

Meeting

June 23, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St. Dominic Rectory Meeting Room
775 Harrison Avenue, NOLA 70124

Martin Landrieu called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll was called, and in attendance were: Martin Landrieu, Freddy Yoder, Nancy Lytle, Joe Giarrusso, Joseph Landry, Brian Anderson, Reid Raymond, Ann Leblanc and Val Cupit. Also in attendance were board attorney Richard Bordelon, accountant Larry Jacobi and LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin. A quorum was established with 9 members present.

Approval of minutes: Martin explained that a process for the meeting minutes had been agreed upon where Ann would be responsible for the minutes, would record the meetings, and that Roy Arrigo has volunteered to type the minutes based on that recording. Because the minutes would be based on audio recordings, Martin requested that when motions are made, that an effort should be made to verbally announce who made the motion and who seconded it. Martin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting since they were not formally voted on at the May meeting. The motion was made by Brian to approve the minutes of the April meeting and was seconded by Reid. The motion passed with all in favor. Freddy requested a clarification on the draft copy of the draft copy of the minutes for the May 26 meeting. The draft copy stated that quality of life issues 'were' outside of the purview of the board. Martin read that portion of the draft minutes aloud. Richard suggested that the draft copy be changed from quality of life issues 'were' to 'may be' outside of the board's authority. Freddy was in agreement that this change to the minutes was acceptable. Ann made a motion to change the word 'were' to 'may be' outside of the board's authority, Val seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the change. Reid made a motion to correct the spelling of Richard Bordelon that was seconded by Val. All were in favor of the motion. Freddy made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2016 meeting as amended, Val seconded it. All were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes of the May 26 2016 meeting as amended was passed.

Newsletter: Martin thanked Commissioner Nancy Lytle for her efforts on the LCPD newsletter and he recognized Cynthia Hayes who was present at the meeting for her involvement with the news letter as well. Nancy made a statement thanking Cynthia for the amount of work and extreme level of detail that she provided with the newsletter. Freddy inquired about the process used to determine the addresses that were mailed to. It was explained that they were mailed to the owners of properties within the jurisdiction of the crime prevention district and that individuals with multiple newsletters would receive multiple copies.

Brian noted on the record that Martin had stepped out of the meeting for a moment but that a quorum was maintained and that he would continue presiding over the meeting but would skip over the changing of the date of the November meeting until Martin returned. Brian proceeded with the public interest portion of the agenda.

Public Interest Agenda

Crime Prevention Report & Statistics: The current Crime Prevention Report and accompanying PowerPoint presentation (both of which are attached) were presented and reviewed by Commander Rene Benjamin. Sgt. Benjamin reported that there were 1021 Uniform Crimes reported in New Orleans in June, 130 of those crimes were reported in the 3rd district and 25 were reported within the Lakeview Crime Prevention District. Those 25 consisted of property crimes only and not crimes against persons. He reported that there was an uptick in car burglaries that he attributed to car owners not locking their cars. There were 22 car burglaries during June and all 22 were unlocked cars. Two cars were stolen, both were unlocked and were taken with keys inside of them, one had a firearm inside. One of the vehicles was recovered shortly after it was stolen and it was later determined to have been involved in a homicide.

Sgt. Benjamin reported that the two new cars purchased this year were being picked up the next day and that after being outfitted, should be functioning and on patrol by late July-early August. A discussion regarding license plate readers was held with no action being taken. It was clarified by Sgt. Benjamin that license plate readers are not included in the new equipment being outfitted into the new cars because they were not funded by the board. There were no comments from the public.

Reid reported to the board that the response time was reported by reporter David Hammer on channel four TV that the response time was eight minutes but that the actual response time for LCPD is more like four minutes. Reid reported that Mr. Hammer claims to be starting the clock when the call comes into the operator and stops it when the officer arrives on the scene, but that Sgt. Benjamin starts the clock when the call is dispatched. Reid reported that there are four minutes of lag time occurring in the call center. Sgt Benjamin disputed that information and stated that code two type calls are dispatched immediately and explained that Hammer's reporting is inaccurate because he included nonemergency calls into his calculations. Martin noted for the record that the David Hammer slide is very troubling because it is inaccurate as per the information provided by Sgt. Benjamin, that LCPD code two's being eight minutes is not accurate even with Reid's premise that there might be a four-minute lag time. He noted for the record that the board does not believe that information is true based on what Sgt. Benjamin is telling the board. Sgt. Benjamin stated that the entire Hammer report was based on misinformation. Martin proposed that the response times be posted on the website and on Facebook.

Martin pointed out that the November meeting would fall on Thanksgiving Day. Brian made a motion that the date of the meeting be changed from Thursday of Thanksgiving to Tuesday November 22. The motion was seconded by Nancy and the motion passed with all in favor. The November 2016 meeting of LCPD was established at Tuesday November 22.

Financial Report: Board accountant Larry Jacobi reviewed the monthly financial report (attached). A copy of the bank statement was circulated by Larry to the board members who initialed that they had reviewed them. Larry explained that the board had received \$813,518 in collections from the city against \$831,954 or approximately 18 thousand dollars less than last year at the same time. He attributed it to the city being a month behind in collecting and distributing the money. Although 18 thousand dollars behind, he anticipated getting to approximately 850 thousand dollars in collections as was budgeted. Larry reported that expenses were in order and patrols were running about 131 thousand greater than last year or approximately 30 thousand per cycle greater than last year. When taking into account all budgeted and projected expenses compared to collections, Larry estimated that the board would be able to sustain the current level of patrols and end the year with a surplus of approximately \$157,000. He recommended amending the budget once at the end of the year. He announced that at the August meeting, he would propose a budget for 2017 that included the current level of patrols and the purchasing of two vehicles, to be finalized and approved at the September meeting. Martin reminded the board that the next meeting would be a longer meeting and that it would be a lot about numbers. A discussion was held regarding budget items that should be discussed including sufficient levels of patrols needed, crime cameras, the board's authorization to increase the fees, and how they pertain to the budget, however no action was taken on these issues. Val pointed out that there would be no LCPD meeting in July. Board attorney Richard Bordelon pointed out that the legislature and voters within LCPD had authorized the LCPD to collect up to \$150 per parcel, but that the board had voted to keep it at \$125. Larry reminded the board that any changes to the collection amount must be made with adequate notifications to the city for purposes of collections.

Bylaw Committee: Reid made a motion that the board establish a committee to review and update the board's bylaws. That motion was seconded by Jeb Bruneau. Reid pointed out that a mailing address for the board in the bylaws that was not correct and Martin pointed out other outdated bylaws such as the dates and locations of meetings that should probably be adjusted. Martin suggested Reid to be the chairman of that committee, and asked for volunteers to work with Reid on the committee. Nancy, and Joe Landry volunteered. Jeb made a substitute motion that the board form a committee of three members of the board to review and suggest changes to the existing Lakeview Crime Prevention District by laws. Reid seconded it and it passed with all in favor. Richard reminded the board that this committee is subject to public meetings law.

Crime Camera Program Status Report: Brian reported that an RFP was put out in mid April, a pre-bid conference with seven vendors attending with three of those seven submitting bids was also held. The crime camera committee found the Project NOLA bid to be non-responsive due to not meeting the requirements of the RFP. Brian pointed out that 25 thousand dollars was tentatively budgeted for crime cameras by the board. He reviewed the many requests of the RFP, and reported that the amounts that came in from Rose Valley Electric, who was the higher of the two, for the one year was \$227,855, and with an additional 256 cameras it would be \$317,000, years 2-5 were \$180,000 per year. United Security for the first year was \$116,386.66. United Security was slightly more than half of that the first year cost was from Rose Valley and their years 2 through five was significantly lower as well. In summary Rose Valley was looking at 200 to 300 thousand dollars for the first year with 100 to 200

thousand yearly after. United Security was looking at 115 to 130 thousand dollar for the first year with a 37 to 50 thousand dollar a year. Brian noted that both numbers are significantly outside of the board's initial 25 thousand dollar budget. He pointed out that the project could be revised to more closely accommodate the board budget. Freddy raised the question of saving initially by incorporating existing private existing cameras into a monitoring system. Brian reviewed the Project NOLA process and pointed out the effort to get approximately 35 cameras up and operating. Brian recommended that the board not act regarding crime cameras until it gets a better grasp on what the Lakeview community wants regarding crime cameras. He proposed a survey (attached) to ascertain those wants. He then read his proposed survey to the board.

Ann moved to publish a survey like the one Brian prepared regarding crime prevention/cameras in Lakeview. Freddy seconded and all were in favor. Jeb suggested some changes to the questions be made to the proposed survey. Ann then made a motion to ask crime prevention camera committee to tweak the survey that Brian had prepared. Nancy seconded and all were in favor. Ann then made a motion to authorize the survey committee to finalize the survey substantially in the form of what was discussed at tonight's meeting. Nancy seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. Richard pointed out that the board may have to cancel the RFP and bids. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Public comments: Joe Giarrusso made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Val, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.