

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

January 26, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 PM. Roll was called and in attendance were: Michelle Douglass, John Grillot, Nancy Lytle, Freddy Yoder, Brian Anderson, Ann Leblanc, Jeb Bruneau, Reid Raymond and Joe Landry. A quorum was established. Martin Landrieu and Val Cupit arrived after roll was called. Also in attendance were board CPA Larry Jacobi, and LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin. Brian announced that board attorney Richard Bordelon would be arriving late. There were approximately six members of the public who were also in attendance.

**Approval of minutes:** Brian called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2016 board meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier in the week. The motion was made by Ann to approve the minutes as submitted, the motion was seconded by Jeb and the motion passed with all present in favor of approval. Reid requested that he be supplied with a Word copy of the minutes because that is the format required by the Times Picayune for publishing.

**Public Interest Agenda:**

**Recognition of Outgoing LCPD President and Board Members.** Brian pointed out that Joe Giarrusso had stepped off of the board at the end of December and that John Grillot would be stepping off after this meeting. Brian thanked them for the time and efforts that they gave to the LCPD board. John had been on the board for 9 years, including the period just after Katrina which Jeb pointed out was a difficult time for the board. Brian ended by thanking John for his service.

**Guest Speaker Third District Commander Jeffrey Walls:** Brian announced that Commander Walls was not able to attend tonight's meeting and that his presentation would be rescheduled for the February meeting. Jeb pointed out that the commander did attend the previous LCIA meeting. Brian announced that he had met with Commander Walls several weeks prior and found the new commander extremely excited about what the LCPD was doing and to be very dedicated to Lakeview and is ready to assist the board in any way.

Outgoing board president Martin Landrieu arrived and Brian recognized him for his service to the LCPD. He presented Martin with a plaque that was provided by Lakeview Civic Association which read in part:

*"...with deepest appreciation for your untiring service and exceptional leadership as president for 2016."*

Martin expressed that the board was in good hands and that he was happy to be part of what the board does.

**Incoming LCPD President Presentation** Brian reviewed his Safety Meeting presentation (Power-point presentation attached) that he had presented the previous week as part of the LCIA meeting last Wednesday night. He stated that he would like the board to go out into the community on more of a civic level. Brian stated that over 100 people showed up for the Safety Meeting. Brian also pointed out that the information that he reviewed is on the LCPD website and that an 'Ask The President' link will be added to the LCPD website. He expected to increase the use and activity of the LCPD Facebook page and asked the board to keep an open mind to new ideas such as the car decal program that Nancy Lytle had spearheaded in 2016. Brian pointed out that Lakeview is being robbed because cars are being left unlocked and that we cannot blame the NOPD for that. He spoke about the lock it or leave it initiative.

**Crime Prevention Report & Statistics:** Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the attached Crime Prevention Report that included crimes reported during the current month as well as the final crime figures for 2016. He reported that for the current month NOPD had 1343 UCR crimes that were reported to the New Orleans Police Department, with 180 of those occurring in the Third District, and 25 of those occurring within the Lakeview Crime Prevention District. Of those 25 crimes, 24 were property crimes and one was a persons' crime. 11 of those Lakeview property crimes were auto burglaries. The persons' crime was an aggravated burglary occurred in the 300 block of Stafford Place where 4 armed subjects forced their way into a residence looking for drugs and money. The case is still being investigated. In other cases, Sgt. Benjamin stated that they had several videos that showed multiple black males pulling on car handles between 3 and 5 o'clock in the morning. There was one armed robbery reported earlier this month where the victim who had listed a computer for sale on Craig's List was robbed of his computer and his vehicle in the 800 Block of Pontalba Street. That case is still under investigation. Freddy asked if there were any murders in Lakeview because he had heard a rumor as such. Sgt. Benjamin reported that there had been none. January 2017 in Lakeview saw 11 auto burglaries 5 stolen vehicles of which all 5 had keys inside of the vehicle, 4 of those vehicles were already recovered and one case was cleared by arrest. He reported that most of the auto burglaries occurred on Saturdays. He reported that there had been 244 auto burglaries that had been reported in New Orleans thus far this month with 11 of those having occurred in Lakeview. Sgt. Benjamin also reviewed the LCPD Response Time & Priority Handling Process (report attached) as well as the crime statistics for the year of 2016. He reported that in 2016, there were 12 guns stolen from unlocked vehicles in Lakeview in 2016. 147 auto burglaries reported in Lakeview, 23 of those were from locked vehicles, 124 were unlocked. He pointed out that leaving a weapon in a vehicle overnight jeopardizes the lives of everyone in the community and that simple vehicle burglaries where guns were left in cars overnight can easily turn into a crime of violence. Sgt. Benjamin reviewed points that can be followed by citizens to make Lakeview safer.

**Financial Report:** Board accountant Larry Jacobi reviewed the financial handouts (attached). They included a single column balance sheet dated December 31, 2016. He pointed that the cash on hand at the end of the year was ninety-four thousand one hundred thirty two dollars and thirty seven cents, and that it substantially surpasses the board's end of the year goal of twenty five thousand dollars to have available at that time. A revised budget with explanations of all variances greater than 5 percent was also included in the handouts. Larry explained that it is required by the city and the Legislative Auditor.

He pointed out that thus far, the board had received no collections from the city in the month of January. Brian stated that the board was one hundred and thirty thousand dollars outside of the budget. He felt that it was important to include in the minutes that this was not a result of the board not failing to operate within a budget, but that it was done intentionally because the board knew that they would be carrying a surplus from a prior year, plus revenue from the year before and that was the cause of the board being one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars off of their revenue stream of 2016. That they knew that there would be a two hundred thousand dollar surplus that the board would be carrying forward. Larry pointed out that the budget variance was primarily a result of the change in the city's process for the billing of patrols. Jeb added that patrols were also increased at one point because of public outcry. Brian summarized by stating that the board spent one hundred and thirty four thousand dollars in 2016 than they collected but that it was offset by a two hundred thousand dollar surplus that was carried forward from the previous year. Larry pointed out that Sgt. Benjamin had done an excellent job at managing the patrols to match the budget.

Larry reported that the signatures for the LCPD account would now be changed with the bank since the previous minutes had been approved and that the bank requires board approved minutes to make such changes to the account signatures.

Freddy reminded the board of it's agreement to maintain a calendar of dates needed for the board to follow.

**Public Comments:** Brian opened the meeting for comments from the public and there were none. Brian committed to attending the meetings of the neighboring crime districts. Val raised the issue of police manpower with the city and that the neighborhoods should team up to address this issue. Reid reminded everyone that the NONPACC (New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council) meetings were held the first Wednesday of every month.

### **Administrative Agenda**

**Status of the LCPD By-Laws:** Brian inquired about the status of previous suggested changes to the by-laws. Ann stated that she believed that the board had voted to approve those changes and that she would look into it and confirm this to the board.

**Car Decal Program Update:** Nancy gave an update on the status of the car decals. There were approximately 4,700 decals on hand versus the 11,000 that they had originally. Nancy pointed out that many families needed between 3-6 decals each because of the number of vehicles that each family has. Freddy raised the issue of how to professionally distribute the decals to taxpayers who pay their taxes. He believed that they should not be distributed by passing them out at meetings or standing in parking lots. He expressed that though he understood that there is a cost involved, that they should be delivered by mail to the taxpayers in a professional manner. There was much discussion regarding the need to distribute the decals and about the best method of distributing them. Nancy suggested that the next newsletter be in a single page format that would allow the stickers to be included with the newsletter mailing. Brian agreed to look into it and to report back to the board a proposed method of mailing out the decals.

**Pilot Camera Update:** Brian reported that the orders for the first 12 cameras had been processed. From Microland Computer Center who had the most economical bid. Letters were sent out to 50 residents in the targeted camera locations. Both positive and negative responses were received from those residents and 15 responses had been received from residents who were willing to allow placement of the cameras at their homes. Brian was working with board attorney Richard Bordelon for the proper documentation for the placement of the cameras at the residences and that he was also seeking out bids from installers. He stated that he hoped to have the first 12 cameras up and running by the end of February and that it was decided to place the footage on a cloud server where Sgt. Benjamin will have access to it in real time, or after-the-fact. Val presented a sample of a Project NOLA camera that would be very similar to the LCPD Pilot Program cameras.

**Annual Board Member Disclosure Documents to the Ethics Commission:** Board members were reminded by Board Attorney Richard Bordelon that they must send in the disclosure forms to the ethics board by May 15<sup>th</sup>. This is required for having served on the board during 2016. Ann stated that she would send out a reminder to everybody in April or March.

Ann Leblanc made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Freddy Yoder. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:41pm