

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

June 22, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and roll was called. In attendance were: Rory Bellina, Joe Landry, Nancy Lytle, Freddy Yoder, Brian Anderson, Reid Raymond Jeb Bruneau, Val Cupit, Michelle Douglas. Brian noted for the record that LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin, board accountant Larry Jacobi, and board attorney Richard Bordelon were also present. Also, Martin Landrieu was in attendance, but arrived after roll was called.

Public Interest Agenda

Approval of the Minutes: Brian called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier. The motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting was made by Jeb, and was seconded by Nancy. Jeb noted for the record that last month's meeting was the quickest meeting in LCPD history. All were in favor of approving those minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

Crime Prevention Report & Statistics: Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the statistics in the attached Crime Prevention Report. He began by stating that there had been a few concerning events this month and started his report with persons crimes and property crimes. On June 4th at 2 am, a Rolex watch was snatched from the arm of a victim as a result of an Uber ride. The victim was an NOPD Sargent. After an investigation, the perpetrator was apprehended and was identified by the victim. In another incident, a body of a black male was found in the 5200 block of Canal Blvd earlier this month. Investigators believe that the victim was involved in a robbery in Mississippi where it is believed he was shot. It is also believed that he died while enroute to New Orleans and that the body was dumped where it was found. An aggravated assault was reported on May 9th, where an Entergy meter reader was accosted in the 6700 block of Wuerple Steet. (? Not 100% certain of street name because of clarity on recording)

Two individuals who were suspects in several forced-entry auto burglaries that occurred in the vicinity of several schools in Lakeview, were apprehended and arrested in Jefferson Parish in a joint operation of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office the NOPD. They were part of a much larger organized identity theft ring. The FBI has

taken over the investigation and the suspects are cooperating. In the follow-up investigation, 72 identifications were recovered.

There were thirteen auto burglaries in Lakeview month-to-date, all were vehicles that were unlocked. There were also six vehicles that were stolen in Lakeview month-to-date, all those vehicles were unlocked and had the keys in them as well. Sgt. Benjamin reported that of the vehicle crimes year-to-date, 89% of them were unlocked at the time of the crime. There were 63 auto burglaries in Lakeview year-to-date and of those 63, only 5 involved forced entry. Of those 5 cases of forced entry, all involved property that was in plain sight. Nine of those auto burglaries were cleared by arrest with a 21% year-to-date clearance rate for LCPD while it was reported that NOPD's clearance rate year-to-date for the same crime was 8%. Year-to-date, twenty-one vehicles, including one motorcycle, were stolen in Lakeview. All the 20 vehicles that were stolen were left unlocked with the keys inside of them. The motorcycle was also stolen with the key. Eighteen of the stolen Lakeview vehicles have since been recovered, five of the vehicle thefts were cleared by arrest which is a 24% clearance rate. NOPD's year-to-date clearance rate for auto theft is 9%.

Five hundred and ninety-two guns were reported stolen in New Orleans in 2016, two of them were reported stolen in Lakeview. So far, this year, three hundred and forty-six guns were reported stolen in New Orleans with three of those reported stolen in Lakeview. Sgt. Benjamin reported that criminals count on citizens to leave their vehicles unlocked to steal firearms and vehicles to further their criminal enterprises. Law abiding citizens who deliberately fail to secure their firearms and vehicles as they should, are partly responsible for crimes taking place around the city. Sgt. Benjamin ended his report with safety tips that residents should follow to make Lakeview safer. He emphasized; lock your car doors, remove your valuables from your vehicles, keep your firearms in a safe place, lock your car doors, report all suspicious activities and lock your car doors (sic). He then took questions from the board and public.

Val asked if the guns that she has received reports about being confiscated in other districts are any of the guns that were stolen in Lakeview. Sgt. Benjamin responded that it was still being investigated and that the serial numbers of the confiscated guns had not yet been run.

A member of the public asked if LCPD has a body camera policy. Sgt. Benjamin explained that LCPD officers do not have body cameras, however the consent decree does mandate that LCPD patrol must be

equipped with in-car cameras and that those cameras will be installed shortly. Some officers may be using body cams anyway. Neither these body cams, nor the in car cameras would be at the expense of LCPD.

Martin asked Sgt. Benjamin his opinion of body cameras being used. Sgt. Benjamin responded that there were pros and cons, but that overall, they are a good idea. Martin added that from an officer's prospective, he believed that Lakeview would be a good place for an officer to get accustomed to having body cameras.

Jeb asked Sgt. Benjamin if wearing body cameras were required of officers on LCPD patrols, would LCPD lose anyone. Sgt. Benjamin responded that he would not. Nancy inquired about the challenges that Sgt. Benjamin faced with having to oversee forty officers. Martin asked that at the next meeting or two of LCPD that the pros and cons of body cameras be discussed as it pertains to the LCPD and to discuss if LCPD would be better served with a body camera policy. Jeb asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting and that the meeting move forward. Board attorney Richard Bordelon mentioned that because of the contract with the city, that there may be an issue with requiring the officers to wear body cameras. Brian stated that he would add it to the agenda of the next meeting. Reid pointed out that because others are supplying the cameras that it would not be a budget concern for LCPD. Michelle asked if, because the bodycams are limited by battery capacity, could extra batteries be purchased. Freddy asked if the city was taking advantage of the new cars that are coming out with chips that allow those cars to be located. Sgt. Benjamin said he would look into it and report back.

Financial Report: Larry Jacobi mentioned that the Louisiana Legislative Auditors had sent an acknowledgment that they had received the LCPD board's audit report and that the acknowledgment had been sent to the board members. Larry reviewed the highlights of the audit. He said that they had made no adjustments to the audit. They had indicated that it was a clean report and that the board was in complete compliance. They said that everything that the board is doing is within compliance. There were no material findings or weaknesses. Though they had reported that though the board had not fully complied with ethics training in 2016, that the issue had now been resolved. Michelle asked if the LCPD board would be subject to the new requirements of the legislative auditors. Larry responded that the new requirements would apply. Brian reviewed the three requirements, the annual disclosure, the online ethics training, and the sexual harassment training seminar requirements. There was discussion about if the sexual harassment training applied to LCPD or not.

Larry explained that he would have a preliminary budget at the August meeting and that it should be finalized in September. Brian reminded everyone that there would be no meeting in July. Brian pointed out for the record, the part of the audit that stated that no one on the board receives any compensation for their involvement on the board. It was agreed that the audit would be made a part of the official record of the meeting and that it would be posted on the website. Freddy made a motion that the audit be accepted by the board, it was seconded by Michelle. All were in favor and the motion to accept the audit was passed. Brian also pointed out for the minutes that Martin Landrieu was present and that he arrived in several minutes after the roll was called.

Brian asked for comments from the public. Keith Ziblich from the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District (LVCPD) introduced himself. He stated that Brian had attended some of their meetings and he thought that he would attend one of LCPD's as well. William Raff, District 94 Legislative Assistant gave a brief synopsis of the legislative session that had just ended. Jeb added that there were some legislative actions taken that pertain to crime and that perhaps it should be covered at a future meeting. Val asked that it be put on the August agenda and Brian made note to do so. Brian mentioned that even though Rep. Hilferty had called him and reported that she would not be able to attend tonight's meeting. Brian responded that they would still be covered by William from her office who attends all of the LCPD meetings.

Administrative Agenda

Newsletter Report: Nancy had contacted Cynthia, who had also assisted with the newsletter in the past, to help with this newsletter. Nancy expected this newsletter to be a bit easier than in the past because it was on easier to work with Xeroxed colored paper. Brian acknowledged that he knew a letter was expected from him for that newsletter. Brian asked if we could have the newsletter out by the end of the summer and Nancy responded that she expected to have a draft copy in time for the next meeting in August.

Car Decals: Brian pointed out that it was agreed at the last meeting to mail out the car decals. Brian asked if the money for the decals had been budgeted and if the costs of the decals could be rolled into the costs of the newsletter. Nancy stated that they would probably need to order another four thousand decals to cover the mailing. Brian asked Nancy to have an estimate on costs at the August meeting.

Calendar: Brian asked for a volunteer to spearhead an LCPD calendar. Richard reminded Brian that a calendar had been produced and distributed several years ago and that he could send out a copy of it. Michelle volunteered to spearhead the calendar. It was pointed out that Ann was familiar with the calendar and that Michell should work with Ann on the calendar. Freddy pointed out that in the past, significant deadline dates were missed and that this calendar was needed to avoid missing these deadlines. Brian asked for a draft to be ready for the August meeting.

Michelle made a motion to add an item to the agenda that would allow Val to speak about license plate reader cameras. The motion was seconded by Jeb and all were in favor of adding this to the meeting agenda.

License Plate Reading Cameras: Val reported that the city was putting twenty such cameras around the city, but that they were going into hot-spots and that Lakeview was not considered a hot-spot. Val asked what the cost would be for LCPD to fund their own and was awaiting that information. She explained that these cameras were very valuable to solving crimes and she asked that this be put on the agenda for next month. Brian pointed out that the tax payer money from Lakeview wasn't good enough for us to be added to the city's hot-spots. He asked Val to pursue having Lakeview added to the list of hot-spots. He added that before we look at paying extra money to the city to add such cameras in Lakeview because we are not a hot-spot, that we should look to the city to consider Lakeview as a hot-spot. Brian expressed that he felt that Lakeview is a hot-spot. Keith Ziblich told the board that the LVCPD has several license-plate reading cameras and that they have found them to be very beneficial in solving crimes. He stated that unlike the city's cameras, LVCPDs cameras were not tied into the system for NOPD to have direct access to them. Val asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting and that she would try and have some experts there to help answer questions.

Brian asked for a motion to adjourn. Martin Landrieu made the motion and it was seconded by Nancy. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 pm.