

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

May 25, 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: Joe Landry, Martin Landrieu, Nancy Lytle, Freddy Yoder, Brian Anderson, Ann Leblanc, and Reid Raymond. (Val Cupit and Jeb Bruneau were not present for the roll call, but arrived during the crime prevention report.) Brian noted for the record that LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin, board accountant Larry Jacobi, and board attorney Richard Bordelon were also present. There were also four members of the public present and Brian thanked them for attending.

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 April 27, 2017 meeting was made by Freddy, and was seconded by Joe. All were in favor of approving those minutes and the motion passed unanimously. Martin noted that the minutes for that meeting were not that long because the meeting had only lasted forty-five minutes. Brian added that while he had put the agenda together for that meeting, that Jeb Bruneau did an excellent job at presiding over that meeting.

Crime Prevention Report & Statistics: Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the statistics in the attached Crime Prevention Report. There were 6 auto burglaries in Lakeview month-to-date. Five of the six auto burglaries involved unlocked vehicles. One was forced entry where the window was broken and a purse was taken from the passenger seat. Sgt. Benjamin said most of the crimes occurred in the vicinity of I-610 near Canal Boulevard, because that's the easy escape route and because the streets are smoother in that area. Sgt. Benjamin ended his report with safety tips.

Brian pointed out that Val Cupit and Jeb Bruneau arrived at the meeting during the crime report presentation.

Financial Report: Larry Jacobi reviewed the attached financial reports which he identified as another glowing financial report. LCPD had received approximately nineteen thousand during the month of May. The year's total receipts are eight hundred and eighty thousand, two hundred and sixty-four dollars. The projected receipts were eight hundred sixty-four thousand dollars, and we have exceeded expected revenue figures. Another number of interest is patrols, which are twenty-two thousand dollars eight hundred and eighty-one dollars below last year. Other numbers are within budget except accounting. Accounting had been paid earlier so we are a little ahead of it.

The audit has been completed in draft only. There are no adjustments required between the audited report and the financials that were distributed in January. He reported that the board has performed an audit yearly. Because the audits have gotten to be costly, Larry asked the board to consider having

the audit every other year as required by law. In the years when an audit is not required, we could have a less extensive review rather than an annual audit and that the board could save about fifty percent on those years. Freddy inquired if the bylaws required an annual audit and Richard replied that he did not believe that they did. Ann pointed out that the audit that is conducted every two years audits not one year, but the two years previous so that even with the audits every two years, that there would be no year that would go unaudited. Larry asked for and received the board the board's blessings to collect information on the subject. It was determined that for Larry to simply collect information on this subject did not require a motion.

Biannual Newsletter Status Report: Because there was nothing to report regarding the newsletter, Nancy requested that this issue be differed until the next meeting.

Public Comments: A member of the public reported to the board that several neighbors in a row in the 6600 block of Catina Street had their garbage cans stolen. Several board members also added that their garbage can or recycle bin had also disappeared. Brian said he would put it out on social media to see if it was a trend.

They also added that there was an issue with the motorcycles on West End Blvd. Brian informed them they were aware of the issue and of actions that were being taken by law enforcement on that regard.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Pilot Camera Program Update: Brian was happy to say that we now have cameras that are up and running. The contract with the installer had been finalized, and now there is a contract to install cameras on a per camera basis, that cameras had been purchased and a handful of cameras had already been installed. Those that had been installed were performing well. He stated that at the next meeting, he intended to provide to the board a map that showed the planned camera locations as well as the existing locations where we now have cameras. He also hoped to be able to put the cameras up on the screen at the next board meeting as well. He anticipated that by the next meeting, Sgt. Benjamin would have access to all the cameras.

Discussions Regarding Supplementing LCPD with Private Patrols: Brian announced that he had placed this item on the agenda because he wanted to begin discussions on the topic with the board. He added that he did not expect the board to make such a significant decision in only one night. Ann expressed concern that because of costs, that patrols might erode into more private patrols. She also asked Sgt. Benjamin for his opinion on the subject. Sgt. Benjamin stated that the only benefit that he saw was that it might help the board with the budget. Ann felt that it might be a slippery slope. Val would only be in favor of using retired NOPD at a cheaper rate but not for patrols. Larry advised against the LCPD getting into a payroll situation. Val clarified that is not what she meant, that she would only be interested in contracting with patrols who employed retired NOPD officers. Brian suggested that a private security company could take the escort service away from LCPD allowing the NOPD patrols to focus on fighting crime. Martin stated that he was negative to the issue because we have an adequate level of NOPD patrols now, and that he does not sense that there is a lack of resources right now. He pointed out that he did not see the crunch for money to drive the need for second tier patrols and that everything seems

to be working right now. He also raised issues of secondary questions such as chain of command. Freddy stated that the subject of private patrols had been thoroughly researched by the initial board and the research overwhelmingly was in favor of NOPD patrols. He said that private patrols never did bring anything to the table. He stated that he was absolutely opposed to private patrols. He felt that it sent a bad message to the community, that LCPD is headed in the right direction and that the already very low statistics continue to improve. We have unbelievably low crime statistics and that is in appreciation to those who are working the streets for us and he doesn't want to bring it down. He felt that going the way of private patrols would make a statement that we are not satisfied with the job done by those who got us to where we are today. Brian stated that what Freddy spoke of was pre-2000 but that this is now seventeen years later and that he was not advocating replacing NOPD patrols. He said that we did not have a decrease in crime last year and that we were no longer trending down. He was uncertain that we would have a decrease this year. Nancy listed many ways that quality of life issues had been handled in the past and that we could do more to relieve the NOPD of quality of life issues without the need of private patrols. Val added that she was strongly opposed to hiring private patrols when everything is working great. Larry suggested that investing in higher tech might be a way to go instead of private patrols.

Brian explained that he sees his role as the president of LCPD is to challenge the status-quo, to raise thought provoking ideas and not be complacent. He felt that because of man power issues with NOPD, that we need to be exploring other issues. Freddy complained that the board has had a track record of putting ideas on the agenda but that they never are followed to fruition. He used the example of trying to get Lakeview covered by block captains.

Nancy raised the issue about reflective stickers. Freddy suggested that the sticker issue be placed on next month's meeting and Brian said that he would see that it was added.

Brian then announced that at a recent meeting of representatives of five surrounding neighborhoods a decision had been made to revive the Lake Area Advisory Council. It would consist of 2 representatives of each neighborhood. He would have more to report about the council soon. Freddy asked that the LCPD calendar that had previously been decided upon by the board but that was not being provided be revisited.

Brian called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Martin, it was seconded by Joe L. and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 pm.