

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

August 23, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Roll was called, in attendance were: Graham Ryan, Val Cupit, Martin Landrieu, Melissa Lessell, Freddy Yoder, Brian Anderson, Nancy Lytle, Ann Leblanc, and Reid Raymond. Jeb Bruneau arrived during the crime report. Also, in attendance were, board CPA Larry Jacobi, and LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin. Board attorney Richard Bordelon arrived shortly after roll was called. Brian Anderson welcomed Reid Raymond back on to the board after being reappointed by the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association. He stated that LCIA gets four appointments and those appointments are; Jeb Bruneau, Val Cupit, Martin Landrieu and now Reid Raymond. Brian Anderson added that Michelle Douglass graciously agreed to step down from the board in order to allow Reid the opportunity to serve on LCPD again adding that it was a very selfless act on her part to do so. William Rafferty of Representative Hilferty was present as was Sam Gordon of Mayor Cantrell's office.

Approval of minutes: Brian Anderson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19 board meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier in the week(attached). The motion to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting was made by Ann Leblanc and seconded by Freddy Yoder. The motion passed with all in favor.

Crime Prevention Report: LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin presented the month-to-date Crime Prevention Report for the current month. He reported that crime this current month is down sixty one percent from the previous month. Overall crime year-to-date is down seventeen percent in Lakeview. Year-to date there have been seventy-one auto burglaries in Lakeview ninety-eight percent of those vehicles were unlocked when the crime occurred. Twenty one percent of the Lakeview auto burglaries were cleared by a warrant or arrest as compared to nine percent that were cleared in New Orleans overall. Twenty-six vehicles were actually stolen in Lakeview. Twenty-four of the vehicles have been recovered and twenty-four of the twenty-six that were stolen were stolen with either keys or key fobs that were left in them. A video of an auto burglary that occurred on Avenue A at three A.M. in the morning was shown. It showed the perpetrators going down the block pulling on car door handles. Sgt. Benjamin listed guns and car keys as some of the types of items that they are looking for. A video about gun thefts and crimes in the city was also played. It featured NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison and Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro. The DA spoke about the frequency of guns that are stolen out of cars. In some cases, the car windows were left open requiring only that the thief reach in to steal the gun. Sgt. Benjamin reviewed the stats of stolen guns. Year-to-date, three hundred and ninety-nine guns were reported stolen to the New Orleans Police Department. Two hundred and fifty-one of those were stolen in auto burglaries. Leaving vehicles unlocked contributes to escalating crime rates. Those stolen vehicles and firearms are used to commit other crimes.

Financial Report: Larry Jacobi reviewed the monthly financial statements (attached). He stated that both collections and expenses were tracking well and as projected in the budget. He assured the board that they were doing well with patrols and commented that Sgt. Benjamin was doing an excellent job at managing those patrols. There were no questions about the financials from the board. He then reported on the legislative auditors and the state-wide agreed upon procedures. The auditors had acknowledged that last year, that they had not properly provided the information about exactly what procedures would be followed. There were a few exceptions on the audit but none of them material. The auditors reported that ninety-nine percent of the audits state-wide had some exceptions. Mr. Jacobi reported that the new information for the next audit had been provided. In November, the auditors will begin the quality control audit, which audits the timeliness of the accounting processing. Sudie Sudder has now attended the training on the Yellow Book and on the Agreed-Upon Procedures. Larry Jacobi stated that they now had a permanent written record of Policies and Procedures as recommended by the State Legislative Auditors. Brian Anderson pointed out that one exception from the LCPD audit was that they did not have written procedures to follow but that we are now following an American Institute certified template that was over three hundred pages long. The auditors would pick out those procedures where there had been exceptions and later verify that those specific procedures had been adapted to the LCPD. Brian Anderson reviewed the entire process that included: LCPD was asked to put together written procedures, there is an industry standard that already has everything that we need to have covered, we will review the manual to see if there are any things that we do not need to include such as for staff, and that Larry Jacobi would also make sure that LCPD does not have anything else going on that is not covered in the manual. Larry will then come back to the board asking that the board either approve it in its entirety, approve it with certain amendments, or we approve it with certain exceptions. Larry Jacobi confirmed that what Brian said was correct. The Procedure Manual can also be updated in the future if found to be necessary. Reid suggested that there may be some not-yet-established procedures from the Technology Committee regarding standards for payments to consultants and inventory management procedures that may need to be incorporated into the manual in the future. Brian Anderson suggested that Reid get with Larry and see if there are already existing templates that could be used as starting points, rather than starting from scratch. Val Cupit inquired about how the cell phone bills were paid each month. Larry Jacobi replied that it was by bank draft and not by card, adding that the board had no credit cards.

Brian Anderson pointed out that the only two methods for the board to make payments are by bank draft or by check. He reviewed the procedures for the board's checks that include: two signatures for all checks, statements are passed around at the board meetings in order to give board members the opportunity to review and sign off on. Those payments are also audited by the board's accountant who is then audited by the auditor that is hired each year. That entire process is also audited by the state legislative auditor. Martin Landrieu confirmed with Larry Jacobi that there are no other payments being made by draft other than the cell phone bills. Larry pointed out what he believed was one deficiency: It was that there was no listing or report that confirms that all of the payments made by the city to the LCPD had been received by the board. He explained that his firm verifies those payments by doing a statistical analysis based on the fees and the number of parcels and the collection rates. He added that the checks are so large that if one was not received, it would throw the budget out.

Freddy asked Larry to review the payroll process that verifies that the officers did actually work the patrols and he did so.

Public Interest Agenda: Technology Committee Report: Brian Anderson reported that the technology committee had met on the fourteenth of the month and that they discussed the current status of the camera program. The committee agreed to meet on the third Tuesday of the month which would be the Tuesday before the board meeting. The board-approved purchase of infrared cameras for the police department has been made, and the ability to send out instant messages by email or texts in the event of an emergency was also being looked into. Ralph Schindler gave a thorough review of the camera program via a Power-point presentation. He stated that the LCPD cameras were being changed from time recording, to motion activated recording and that soon owners at camera locations would be able to sign in to view their cameras. Martin Landrieu asked that we track the events where these particular cameras were used to assist in the solving and preventing crimes. Brian Anderson reported that there have numerous instances where incidents were captured on the cameras. He also told the board of a network that Val Cupit maintains of residents with cameras. Those on that list have been very successful at providing video that was helpful in solving crimes. Ann Leblanc suggested that a way be found to measure the effectiveness of the LCPD cameras. Val Cupit mentioned that the police have to go door-to-door asking residents if they have cameras.

Nancy Lytle explained how the city's Safe-Cam program works and that with Safe-Cam, the city is only aware of the location of a registered citizen's cameras and that the city cannot monitor the cameras of those citizens whose cameras are registered with the Safe-Cam Program. She asked the board for suggestions on getting the word out to residents with cameras to register with Safe-Cam. It was also suggested that a map be created of known locations where cameras are owned by residents. Freddy Yoder added that there are several categories of citizens with cameras that vary between those who just want their cameras for their own use, to those who don't mind sharing access to the cameras. He added that many of the cameras are probably not available either from people who do not know how to operate or share the system or who cannot or do not keep the cameras maintained. He stated that if you can figure a way to wheel them into the process that they could be a valuable resource.

Brian Anderson asked if there were any other comments from the public, and there was none.

Brian Anderson then called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Jeb Bruneau, it was seconded by Ann Leblanc and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.