

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

May 31, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. In attendance were: Graham Ryan, Ann Leblanc, Nancy Lytle, Brian Anderson, Jeb Bruneau, Michelle Douglas. A quorum was established with six members attending. After a brief bio by Graham Ryan, board member Val Cupit arrived. LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin was present as was Sudie Joint representing the board accountant. Board attorney Richard Bordelon arrived after roll call. State Representative Stephanie Hilferty was also present. There were also approximately five members of the public in attendance at the meeting as well.

Approval of minutes: Brian Anderson called for an edit to the minutes of the April 26, 2018 board meeting that had been circulated earlier. After a brief discussion it was clarified that the word that was shown as unintelligible was the word nine. After that was clarified, that change was made to the proposed minutes. A motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018 board meeting minutes that included that edit was made by Jeb Bruneau, it was seconded by Nancy. The motion to approve the minutes carried with all in favor and no opposing votes.

Crime Prevention Report & Statistics: Sgt. Rene Benjamin presented the Crime Prevention Report (attached) from the beginning. As of May 29th, there were four thousand five hundred and ninety UCR crimes reported in New Orleans. One hundred and ninety-three of them occurred in the third district, with eight of those occurring in Lakeview. Sgt Benjamin reviewed the details of those eight Lakeview UCR crimes and then compared year-to-date through crime in Lakeview through April as compared to the same time last year. Crime was down overall forty-seven percent. He compared the individual categories of crime against the same time last year and reported that auto-burglaries, our biggest issue in Lakeview was down. In ninety-six percent of the auto burglaries, the vehicles were unlocked when the crimes occurred. Several videos from security cameras were played, showing auto burglaries occurring.

Sgt Benjamin also played an informational video about a device that can be used to capture the signal from a key fob and then duplicating that signal to open the vehicle and in some cases start the vehicle. He reviewed several categories of security devices that will help prevent vehicles from being stolen including: key fob protectors, steering wheel locks, pedal locks and tire locks.

Sgt. Benjamin reported that LCPD has continued to be below the seven-minute response-time goal for the entire year. He concluded with a video produced by the NOPD on tips to reduce automobile thefts. Those tips were to; Keep your vehicle locked and do not have objects in plain view within a vehicle. Jeb asked if the videos could be posted on the website, Sgt. Benjamin responded that he could provide the videos on a thumb drive. Representative Hilferty asked about the NOPD license plate readers regarding

real-time monitoring. Sgt. Benjamin explained that they do not operate as the ones do in Jefferson Parish, but that they are expected to by the end of the year. Ann Leblanc stated that there was a member of the public who had an incident and would like to hear a report about it. That resident explained that a young girl about twelve years old was soliciting help in the street because she was stranded. After using the resident's phone, a black car came and picked her up. The resident now realizes that something was not right about that incident. Sgt. Responded that she should have called 911 to report the incident. He also reminded the resident that there is also a curfew.

Financial Report: Sudie Joint who announced that she was standing in at tonight's meeting for board accountant Larry Jacobi, passed out and reviewed the financial report (attached). She pointed out that collections were slightly behind where they were at the same time last year but expressed confidence that it would catch up shortly. At slightly less than half of the year gone, patrols which were also just below half of what was budgeted were tracking about right. All other budgeted categories were in line as well. She reported that there is six hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars of cash on hand in the bank account. The profit and loss statement also reflected the collections that are slightly behind but that were expected to be caught up soon. Ms. Joint pointed out that patrol costs were up because of the increase in the hourly rate charged by the city for patrols.

She then presented the proposed budget for 2019. Brian Anderson pointed out that the level of patrols in the proposed budget was at the same level of patrols as in the previous two years. Val Cupit pointed out that though the parcel fee had been raised, that additional amount was being consumed because of the increase in the policeman's salary. Ms. Joint pointed out that though two cars had been budgeted for this year, that none had been purchased yet. She also noted that the reason for the additional amounts for accounting in the proposed budget is to accommodate the new requirement of an additional audit. Brian Anderson added that it was almost a one hundred thousand dollar increase between what we were paying for the officers. He added that the budget was being reviewed earlier this year because the new mayor's office had requested that it be turned in earlier. No action was required at tonight's meeting; however, it would need to be finalized at next month's (June) meeting so that it can be turned into the city for the requested July first date. He pointed out that in the proposed budget, one of the two cars budgeted for this year was moved to being purchased in next years budget, but that the board could still purchase both cars this year, or even purchase no cars, but that would be one of the budgetary decisions that would have to be made. Val Cupit asked if the board had received the report of the condition of all of the vehicles. Sgt. Benjamin stated that he was working on it and that he would have it to them soon. Sgt. gave a general review stating that the cars are in good condition and that all are operational. In response to questions, he said that it would take about three months between ordering a car and receiving it. Brian Anderson also pointed out that there was fifty thousand dollars in this year's budget that could be utilized and that the LCPD had been sitting on a surplus of two-hundred thousand dollars. Adding that at the current rate for this year, the board will have spent one hundred thousand dollars more than they received in revenue, thereby consuming about half of that surplus. We will do the exact same thing next year if we take no action, he said. So, the board will have to make some decisions made in 2020 because they are currently not taking in enough to cover their expenditures at the current rate. He stated that we were currently taking one hundred and thirty-

five dollars per parcel of the one hundred and fifty dollars per parcel currently allowed by the voters. He reviewed several options on raising the parcel fee to make up for the shortfall. Ann Leblanc pointed out that it seemed to her that the parcel fee had been stagnant for quite some time and that recently they had gone up a couple of times. Jeb Bruneau agreed with Ann's perception as did Val Cupit. Michelle Douglas pointed out that if we have a banner year at reduction of crime that we would then be better poised to go to the voters for an increase in the parcel fee. Val Cupit pointed out that the mission of the LCPD is to supplement the NOPD patrols and that the board needed to be careful to not replace those regular third district patrols that the city is supposed to provide us with our tax dollars. Brian Anderson said that the other side of it is that we have reached a level where more patrols have not assisted us and that we get more bang for our buck with helping the officers with technology and doing things to get neighbors to lock their cars. He concluded that the board was spending one hundred & two thousand dollars more this year than they took in and that they will do the same thing next year if we do not either adjust the budget or raise the fee. It was decided to defer any decisions regarding purchasing vehicles to the next LCPD meeting.

Ann Leblanc stated that she was not in favor of raising the parcel fee before next year and Michelle Douglas agreed.

Brian Anderson reminded the board that the date for individual board members to turn in their Tier 2.1 financial forms had passed and was now passed past due. He also reminded everyone that each board member had to take an online ethics course sometime during the year. Brian asked the board to send copies of their ethics certificates to Ann Leblanc because the auditors do ask for copies of those certificates. Val Cupit inquired about the status of Reid Raymond's appointment to the board. Brian Anderson responded that he was waiting on Mayor Cantrell to appoint Reid. He added that there were currently no open positions on the board, but that if someone was interested in serving, that there may be some board members that would be willing to stepdown in order to allow others to serve.

Technology Committee Report:

Brian Anderson reported that the technology committee did meet two weeks ago. He stated that in addition to himself, in attendance were Reid Raymond, Val Cupit, Gino Ascani, and Taylor Oertling. It was agreed that the technology committee would consist of Brian Anderson, Val Cupit, and Nancy Lytle if she would like to be part of it. Gino and Taylor would act as neighborhood members. Irene Raymond would act as a neighborhood member as well. Brian reviewed that there were currently 28 cameras up and running. At the committee meeting, Reid Raymond and Val Cupit had agreed to put together procedures to protect the LCPD technology assets. Ralph Schindler is now a paid technical advisor to the board, and he is currently putting together a database to keep track of every camera. The committee agreed to search out locations for the placement of cameras in places where they are needed. Brian projected that we would have about 75 cameras operational by the end of the year. The discussion has begun with the city about creating the agreement regarding the monitoring of the LCPD cameras. Brian Anderson explained that we are currently working on getting our camera system to be encoded to be compatible for the Real Time Crime Center. One of the changes that Brian Anderson anticipated was the purchase a server to store the camera video as opposed to using a cloud-based server. The costs for

the purchasing of the server would be approximately the same amount as was projected for the cloud-based server costs.

Brian Anderson called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jeb Bruneau, it was seconded by Nancy Lytle and there were none opposed. The meeting was adjourned and approximately 7:30PM.