

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

October 25, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Roll was called, in attendance were: Freddy Yoder, Val Cupit, Nancy Lytle, Brian Anderson, Ann Leblanc, and Reid Raymond. Graham Ryan arrived after the vote to approve the minutes. Also, in attendance were, board accountant Sudie Joint, attorney Richard Bordelon, LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin, technical advisor Ralph Schindler, State Representative Stephanie Hilferty, City Councilman Joe Giarrusso, and District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro. There were approximately fifteen members of the public in attendance as well.

**Approval of Minutes:** Brian Anderson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2018 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 Reid Raymond and was seconded by Nancy Lytle. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Crime Report:** LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin reviewed the month-to-date crime statistics (attached). He reviewed crimes that had occurred in the area including a recent home invasion. Video from a LCPD crime camera was key in identifying the vehicle and consequently breaking the case. One perpetrator has been apprehended and others are being sought in that case. The perpetrator knew the victim and believed that the home was vacant at the time.

Sgt. Benjamin also reviewed a car theft that occurred on Conrad Street that was captured on a dash-cam with video of the perpetrator carrying a gun. The perpetrators were driving a vehicle that had been stolen. The perpetrators drove up in a vehicle that had been stolen. A firearm was also stolen with that vehicle. He reported that one of the perpetrators, a minor, was arrested yesterday in New Orleans East. Other perpetrators have been identified and are being sought. Both vehicles have been recovered as well as several guns.

Sgt. Benjamin also reported that in the past week, the New Orleans Police Seventh District had experienced an increase in auto burglaries and auto thefts. As a result of sharing information, the Seventh District and the Third District began an aggressive joint investigation. That investigation led to two juveniles being identified as responsible for the vast majority of the vehicle burglaries that occurred in the Seventh and Third districts. Search warrants were served that led to the arrest of four individuals total.

Sgt Benjamin also reviewed the UCR crimes for the month of October and year-to-date. All UCR crimes occurring in Lakeview in this month were property crimes. Month-to-date there were sixteen auto burglaries, all of which were unlocked vehicles. There were also six auto thefts all of which were stolen with the keys or key fobs in them, three have been recovered. One aggravated burglary occurred and

was cleared by arrest. Seventy percent of the crime that occurred in Lakeview involved vehicles that were either stolen or burglarized. Year-to-date UCR crime in Lakeview is down ten percent. Ninety-five percent of the vehicles were unlocked when the crimes occurred. Forty-two vehicles were stolen year-to-date in Lakeview, forty-one were stolen with the key or key fob in them. There was also one attempted auto theft that was cleared by arrest. Thirty-seven of the vehicles have already been recovered. Response times of the entire NOPD as well as for the LCPD were also covered. Sgt. Benjamin reported that leaving vehicles unlocked contributes to escalating crime rates, because criminals use stolen vehicles and firearms to commit other crimes. A public safety announcement was played in which Mayor Latoya Cantrell addressed the unlocked vehicle situation and the leaving of guns many of those unlocked vehicles. Sgt. Benjamin then reviewed pointers that Lakeview residents could follow to aid in reducing crime. Brian Anderson asked Sgt. Benjamin several questions. According to Sgt. Benjamin, video from cameras owned by residents as well as from LCPD cameras had been helpful in solving many of the recent crimes. It was also noted that the Lakeview Crime Prevention District has close to between twice to four times the amount of patrols of any other area in the city. Other methods used to fight crime that were currently being used were the use of more unmarked vehicles as well as the use of bicycle patrols. Questions were then taken from the members of the public. In response to a question, Sgt. Benjamin explained that though the technology exists, there is no evidence of any device being used to steal vehicles with a device that duplicates the vehicle's key fob. District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro addressed another question from the public, explaining that there is no repeat offender law that is available in the juvenile court system. He stated that the problem with Juvenile Court is the judges. Juvenile perpetrators believe that Lakeview is easy pickings for accessing guns from unlocked cars so that those guns can be used in other crimes. He pointed out that the trend has been to lessen times served for crimes rather than what he called 'tough on crime' legislation. He added that actions that can be taken to prevent the crimes from occurring are better taken than any actions taken *after* the crimes are committed. D.A. Cannizzaro fielded several other questions from board members and from members of the public. Representative Hilferty spoke of the contrasts of crime in the Orleans Parish portion of her legislative district versus the Jefferson Parish portion of her district. New Orleans City Councilman Joe Giarrusso spoke to many crime issues facing the city including that soon, he would be meeting with the area's court judges and asking them on behalf of the people that he represents, that when they are sentencing individuals with multiple prior offenses to please put the individuals in jail for at least a certain period of time. He described another possible option, a harpoon type device to use in lieu of dangerous chases that NOPD could possibly put into use. He added that citizen participation and the monitoring of crime cases as they go through the court process is another action that could be taken to address crime. Val Cupid asked about what could be done to address the cycle of crime in the city. Representative Hilferty agreed with a member of the public who stated that education was a part of solving the crime problem. Nancy Lytle thanked the elected officials for their contributions to the meeting. D.A. Cannizzaro stated that he doesn't see them until they commit a crime and that the problem is that many times they thumb their nose at the judge regarding their requirements of staying in school or off of drugs during their probation period. He stated that in the long run, it comes down to the parenting and if the parents don't do their job, then it comes down to the DA and the courts. Councilman Giarrusso added that in addition to education, that jobs are an important part of the issue as well. Brian Anderson asked D.A. Cannizzaro what should the voters be telling their elected officials

when they cast their votes. Mr. Cannizzaro stated that his office is under-funded and that his office needs more funding to do a better job at fighting crime. Representative Hilferty stated that she will be sending out a survey to the voters shortly. Councilman Giarrusso agreed with the district attorney on what the needs were for fighting crime.

**Nomination of the 2019 Executive Officers:** The nomination of executive officers was moved up on the agenda because Freddy Yoder had to leave. Graham Ryan stated that he was interested in continuing to serve as treasurer, Ann Leblanc stated that she was interested in continuing to serve as secretary, Brian Anderson stated that he was interested in continuing to serve as president and that he had spoken with Jeb Bruneau, and that Jeb was also interested in continuing to serve as vice-president. Brian Anderson solicited the board for any other board members who were interested in serving, and there were none. Reid Raymond made a motion to establish the slate for officers to be voted on at the next meeting of Brian Anderson for President, Ann Leblanc for Vice-President, Graham Ryan for Treasurer and Ann Leblanc for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Freddy. A vote was held and the motion passed, with all members of the board voting to establish the slate of nominees. Val Cupit then made a motion to put it on tonight's agenda to hold the vote on the officers at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Reid Raymond. There was no discussion, and all were in favor.

**Election of Executive Officers for 2019:** Reid Raymond made a motion to approve the slate of officers as submitted for 2019. The motion was seconded by Freddy Yoder. A vote was held and the motion passed, with all members of the board in favor. Freddy Yoder left after this vote was held.

**Financial Report:** Sudie Joint explained to the board that three checks that had been delivered to the city by Sgt. Benjamin had been misplaced by the city, thus causing those checks to have stop-payments issued for them and new checks to be re-issued. Larry (Jacobi) had spoken with the representative at Eustis Insurance and confirmed that he would be able to have the insurance proposal in time for the November meeting giving time for approval on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Sudie Joint passed out the profit and loss statements, and pointed out that collections were up from the same time last year, and that because of pay increases to policemen, that patrols had increased as was expected. On Profit and Loss budget-versus actuals, we are ahead of budget by about nineteen thousand dollars on collections. There remain about five cycles left through the remainder of the year which would make about two hundred thousand dollars more on patrols for the year. Which would put us over budget for patrols. The balance sheet showed an account payable at about thirty-four thousand, and cash of three hundred forty-two thousand. So even with the patrols factored in, we would still carry forward a surplus of about one hundred thousand dollars. The budget surplus projection is about one-hundred thirty-two thousand dollars. Brian Anderson explained that the patrols were being closely managed and that the Third District was assisting with patrols. Larry is working on the Agreed-Upon-Procedures and would have them for the next LCPD Board meeting.

**Official Journal:** Brian Anderson explained that there were now two options for the official journal. Sudie Joint was directed to get rates from the two options and to report back to the board.

**Crime Camera Program:** Brian Anderson pointed out that it was video from an LCPD camera that was used to solve the case of a recent Lakeview home invasion. Ralph Schindler handed out a report on the camera program. He reported that eighteen cameras are now being backed-up to the cloud and that thirty-three cameras are currently in service, with six currently being out of service. Eight more camera locations are currently proposed. Nancy Lytle inquired about progress with the software company. Brian Anderson stated that negotiations were still in progress but that the emphasis is in getting the cameras up and running reliably prior to getting them to communicate with the city. A member of the public volunteered his home as a possible camera location.

Brian Anderson reminded the board that their online ethics courses were due before the end of the year. He then announced that the next meeting would be on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November.

Brian Anderson then called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Ann Leblanc. The motion was seconded by Val Cupit, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.