

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

March 7, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Jeb Bruneau called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM. Roll was called. Board members in attendance were: Jeb Bruneau, Melissa Lessell, Nancy Lytle, Freddy Yoder, Reid Raymond, Val Cupit. A quorum was confirmed. Also, in attendance were; board accountant Larry Jacobi, attorney Richard Bordelon, LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin, William Rafferty representing Representative Hilferty's office, as well as several members of the public.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jeb Bruneau called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2019 board meeting that had been distributed to the board earlier in the week. The motion to approve them was made by Freddy Yoder and was seconded by Reid Raymond. A vote was held and the motion passed with all voting in favor, none opposed.

**Crime Report:** LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin reviewed the month-to-date crime statistics (attached). He reported that in the month of February, all thirty-two UCR crimes that occurred in Lakeview were property crimes, not persons crimes. Eighteen of them were auto-burglary investigations where thirty-one vehicles were targeted. Fifteen incidents involved forced entry, property was taken from the vehicle in twelve of the eighteen investigations. Eight cars were stolen, all with keys or key fobs being used. Seven of those eight cars have been recovered.

Commander Jeffery Walls of the Third District informed the meeting of pro-active actions that were being taken in order to address the problems with crime by juveniles. Several different and creative actions are being taken, some of which include getting with the parents of the juveniles in order to change the course of action with these juveniles. He answered several questions from board members regarding those actions that were being taken as well as about what more could be done. Commander Wells stated that forty-five juveniles have been identified as being a problem with repetitive crime.

In addition to reviewing response times, Sgt. Benjamin concluded his report with tips that Lakeview residents could follow in order to prevent crime.

Third District Commander Jeffery Walls and Detective Supervisor Sergeant Jason Hickman gave a special presentation. In response to concerns from the public about perpetrators now resorting to mask, they explained that the perps are now doing so because the police know who they are. They added that they have been successful at identifying them despite those attempts to hide behind masks. He also stated that the police need the cooperation of residents because the juveniles are coming to Lakeview because they know that they can get guns there. He stated that no one should be leaving guns in cars and that as long as they know that they can come here and get guns from unlocked cars, that they will keep on coming. Guns taken from cars in Lakeview, end up being used in crimes in other surrounding areas. He

advised residents to not leave guns in cars, not to leave cars unlocked, and do not leave valuables in cars where they can be seen. Melissa Lessell inquired if the LCPD jurisdiction was still getting their fair share of protection from the NOPD. Commander Walls replied that the NOPD does not deviate manpower away from the LCPD crime district. Freddy Yoder pointed out that the district had been made larger and that there was a crisis with fewer officers available. He asked in cases of unlocked cars where those guns end up being stolen and eventually are used in crimes, why shouldn't the owners of those guns be held accountable? He also asked about legislation that would hold accountable the parents of juvenile criminals. The commander replied that such a law exists, however the NOPD does not get involved in legislation. In response to a question from Val Cupit, Commander Walls stated that he could start providing some data about Lakeview guns that end up being used in crimes, but that he would have to check exactly what data could be provided. In response to another question from the public, Walls stated that when car windows are smashed, he knows exactly what group is responsible because that is the MO of a particular group of perpetrators.

Detective Supervisor Sergeant Jason Hickman stated that his detectives do follow up and come out to many of the reports that are completed by residents online. Jeb Bruneau thanked Commander Walls and Detective Supervisor Sergeant Jason Hickman for attending the meeting and for their presentation.

**Financial Report:** Board Accountant Larry Jacobi reviewed the financial statements that were distributed to the board. Larry Jacobi began by announcing that there was one hundred thirty-six thousand, six hundred fifty-eight dollars of cash on hand and that after the accounts payable are paid, it leaves the board with only thirteen thousand dollars. Because the city now pays the board two months behind, causes a two-month lag with matching the board's income with their expenses. For that reason, by the end of the year, there will be a need to have about one hundred and forty thousand dollars on hand. He was expecting to receive the January collections which should be in the neighborhood of four hundred thousand dollars. He pointed out that all line items on the budget were in line.

The purchase of one patrol vehicle was budgeted to be purchased in this year.

**Public Comments:** Jeb Bruneau called for comments from the public and there were none.

**Administrative Agenda: Technology Report:** Reid Raymond provided the technology report. He pointed out that the board currently has a program to provide to residents' cameras that point to public streets. There is also a new crime camera program in the city that is providing very similar service at similar costs as the LCPD camera program. The Technology Committee is studying that new program to see if they can become a part of it. The were three individuals from the program were present in order to answer any questions that the board may have. The name of the program is Safe-Cam Platinum. Board attorney Richard Bordelon clarified that Brian Anderson was seeking from the board authorization to study the program and to report back to the board with recommendation as to how to proceed. Reid Raymond then made a motion to authorize the technology committee to study the Safe-Cam Platinum program and to come back to the board with a recommendation. Melissa Lessell asked if this was a no-cost study and Reid Raymond clarified that it was. The motion was seconded by Val Cupit. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried with all in favor. Ross (Bourgeois?), with the crime

camera program explain that they would love to work with LCPD to integrate the cameras into the Real-Time Crime Center. He added that he was always happy to give tours of the center including weekends, up to about 20 people per tour. Melissa Lessell asked that a full presentation of the Safe-Cam Program be put on the agenda of a future meeting.

Richard Bordelon reminded the board that their financial disclosure forms for the previous year of 2018 are due on May 15<sup>th</sup> and that he would send out a reminder email to the board members and that online ethics courses by board members are due to be taken by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Jeb Bruneau again asked if there were any other comments from the public and there were none. A motion for the meeting to adjourn was made by Jeb Bruneau, and it was seconded by Melissa Lessell. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:39 pm.