

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

December 3, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: N/A Via Zoom due to COVID-19

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present were: Freddy Yoder, Ann LeBlanc, Brian Anderson, Reid Raymond, Graham Ryan, Val Cupit, Melissa Lessell, Nancy Lytle and Chris Beacher. Also present were Commander Rene Benjamin, Accountant Larry Jacobi and attorney Richard Bordelon.

Motion to approve minutes from October 22 meeting. Freddy moved, and Reid seconded. The motion carried.

Crime Report

November, Third District reported 318 UCR crimes, 36 occurred in Lakeview. 35 were property crimes and one was a person's crime. There was an alleged aggravated assault on November 22 in the 300 block of W. Robert E. Lee Blvd. stemming from an apparent road rage incident. The complainant followed the accused driver in his car. After realizing she was being followed, the accused pulled to the side of the road. The complainant pulled alongside the accused, and the female allegedly displayed a firearm. For some reason this was written up as an aggravated assault. The incident is under investigation.

There were three alleged shoplifting incidents at Walgreens on Harrison that occurred on November 21, 22, and 23, all in the morning. The perpetrators were three males who allegedly stole detergent, baby formula and alcohol.

In November, 46 vehicles were targeted in 28 auto burglary incidents. Forced entry was used to access the majority of these vehicles. Property was discovered missing from 32% of the vehicles burglarized. One case was cleared by arrest.

There were two unsecured vehicles stolen; both had keys or key fobs left inside. They were cleared by arrest and vehicles were recovered.

There were two burglaries. One involved an incident when male perpetrator left his home while his girlfriend was outside waiting for a ride. When he returned, he found the front door kicked in and several items broken. The alleged perpetrator has been identified and an arrest warrant obtained. The second incident involved an incident when a television and cell phone were found missing from a residence. Apparent signs of forced entry were not noted. The investigation is ongoing.

Year to date, there have been 288 UCR incidents in Lakeview with auto burglary representing the highest number (169). There were 275 last year. This represents 5% increase. The increase is primarily

due to increase in auto burglaries and shoplifting. Person's crimes total eight this year. 63% have been solved this year which is high clearance rate.

Response times: LV responded to 99 high priority calls. 6:40 is average responsive time. Even though it's under 7 minutes, it is high compared to previous months and LCPD's usual numbers of a response time of less than 6 minutes. Sgt. Benjamin noted some discrepancies with report from headquarters and daily activity sheets. Sometimes officers don't report immediately when they arrive on scene. He has instructed them to do so.

Val asked about effectiveness of cameras and license plate readers in light of incidents at Walgreens. Sgt. Benjamin stated that license plate readers are working. Cameras that are posted help, but people are wearing hats, and jackets and it's hard to get good picture. Walgreens does not want to prosecute. Police can only do as much as they can when notified. Often, Walgreens personnel do not call police. It is an ongoing battle with Walgreens. Sgt. Benjamin will talk with 3rd District Commander to see if we could have a meeting with Walgreens' management. Reid indicated he tried to meet with them about cameras and they seemed disinterested. Brian said months ago we started letter writing campaign to Walgreens and we reached out to landlord. The landlord will not be inclined to push out national tenant. Brian suggests we get back to letter writing campaign. Freddy suggested we get businesses together to approach Walgreens. This will be on agenda in January.

Financial report.

Larry Jacobi indicated that we are on course. Balance sheet shows a \$430,148 cash balance. Accounts payable is \$110,452.43 which includes millage billing which means it is overstated. We will not have resolution of this by the end of the year. The auditors will know that we are contesting these charges. Larry says he is having trouble getting response on legality of why we are being charged.

P&L shows that we are ahead in the revenue category. We budgeted \$1,026,314 and we have \$1,036,464. All of items pretty much where we thought we would be. There is enough in the budget to cover all patrols through the end of the year. We are collecting \$150 per parcel.

We have been invoiced \$52K for the millage amount and we have not paid it because of the issues of not knowing the basis and our belief that it is not part of our contract. No one can explain why this is being assessed.

Next year we will "owe" another 16% of the budget if the millage is not resolved. We need to keep this in mind moving forward.

We have enough cash flow to get us through patrols through March of 2021 even assuming we do not receive tax payments. We will start year with \$250K. This does not include millage amount.

Administrative agenda

- Crime Camera update

Reid said we are in the middle of Phase 2 of the crime cameras. It has been slow because Reid's target participants are the property owners of older cameras that were first installed (17). There have been owner and attitude changes, etc. He will move toward looking for new installations after first of the year if he does not hear back from these participants. Reid reported camera recently being installed at Grace Lutheran and at Canal and Kenilworth. His goal is to strategically place cameras. Val and Nancy have been a great help.

- IT Specialist

He is developing job description for senior developer. Reid will be passing it by Richard very soon.

Nomination of officers

Brian gave possible slate: Brian, president, Graham, vice president, Freddy as treasurer, and Ann as secretary. No one else wanted to be on the slate. **Motion:** Reid nominated the slate as presented. Nancy seconded. All in favor. **Motion** to elect the officers from the slate that was nominated. Reid moved; Nancy seconded, and all were in favor.

Update on CEA

Because of issues with COVID and not having face to face meetings, our not being satisfied with existing CEA, and issues getting negotiations underway, Richard, Brian and Freddy asked the city if our CEA can be extended for 360 days which we hope will be done by the end of the year. Brian had a productive conversation with Chief Ferguson, and the plan is to work with the NOPD in 2021 about any issues with the CEA and to maintain and enhance our relationship with NOPD. Chief Ferguson is open to meeting with us. The hope is to meet with them quarterly next year. The plan is to get the entire board's ideas together to bring to NOPD. CC member Giarrusso will hopefully be of assistance in this process. The first thing on the January agenda will be our strategy on what we think we can ask for. Brian also told Chief Ferguson how wonderful Sgt. Benjamin has been, and Chief Ferguson said Sgt. Benjamin is not going anywhere. Brian may meet one by one with board member for an exchange of ideas.

The conversation turned back to the millage. Brian said we may need to get CC Giarrusso or Rep Hilferty involved.

Reminder: Ethics certificates due by December 31.

Motion to adjourn, Nancy. Reid seconded it. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.