

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

January 23, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Freddy Yoder called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM and roll was called. In attendance were Jeb Bruneau, Val Cupit, Graham Ryan, Chris Beacher, Brian Anderson, Freddy Yoder, Nancy Lytle, Ann LeBlanc, Reid Raymond and Trey Babin. A quorum was confirmed. Also, in attendance were board accountant Larry Jacobi, board attorney Richard Bordelon, LCPD Commander Sgt. Benjamin and more than 50 members of the public.

Opening: A Motion to approve the minutes was tabled because they had not been circulated yet. Freddy Yoder provided a history of the LCPD and how since it was approved in 1998, there had been a significant drop in crime. Freddy introduced new members of the board, Trey Babin, president of LCIA, and Chris Beacher, LCIA appointee.

Public Interest Agenda:

Crime Report: Sgt. Rene Benjamin gave the crime report. Not all statistics were available because of the December 13 Cyber attack on the city's computer system. From January 1-January 22, 2020, there were 165 NCR crimes in the Third District and 25 in Lakeview. There were 19 auto burglaries, two auto thefts, two shoplifting and two thefts. 17 of the car incidents involved forced entry. Three guns were taken from vehicles. Overall, 731 guns were stolen in the city, 444 of the 731 stolen were from vehicles. Police suspect that the burglaries are being committed by juveniles looking for guns. 100% of the crimes are property crimes; 76% are auto burglaries. 58% of the auto burglaries have been solved. Response time has been 5:48 seconds. In addition to patrols, other ways to combat crime in Lakeview include surveillance cameras, thermal vision equipment and license plate readers. Most of the crime has occurred in Zones F & J between the hours of 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. It is believed that suspects come from New Orleans East and the Ninth Ward, and that they use Filmore, Harrison and Robert E. Lee to come into the neighborhood.

Police recommend locking vehicles and removing guns and keys from the vehicle. Most of the burglaries occurred last year in unlocked vehicles. People have gotten better at locking their cars, but the juveniles have found out that it is better to break the windows. If you see someone trying to break into a vehicle, don't confront them, press the panic button.

Town Hall Meeting: Brian Anderson went over the town hall meeting sponsored by LCIA in which hundreds of people attended. He mentioned that a lot of ideas are being shared from people like Judge Doherty in juvenile court. It was suggested that LCIA possibly set up working groups through crime watch to try to come up with solutions. Freddy suggested perhaps the Katrina committee structure used by LCIA should be used by LCIA.

Financial Report: Larry Jacobi reviewed the financial statements that had been passed out to the board. The Cyber attack has hampered the billing/collection process. The projected actual budget from December 2019 was \$911,533. The variance is \$13,175 but this may be because we are not getting collections. Every item of the 2019 budget has come under budget. There is a \$26,916 profit. The financial report is in good shape. LCPD did not buy a car last year. LCPD spent less on cameras because we were shifting to city cameras. The budget in 2020 is \$1,016,000.

Administrative Agenda:

LCPD is working with Safe-Cam program that involves 600 cameras and live feed at the Real Time Crime Center. Ross Bourgeois, Administrator - Public Safety Support Services, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, City of New Orleans was present and explained the program. Someone is not reviewing the cameras at all times. However, one can instantly pull up video when there is a 911 call. It is an incident-based system. The program can integrate home cameras as well and cameras purchased by LCPD. Owner of a camera can look at the video as well. Brian mentioned increasing the budget for technology to pay for license plate readers. Reid moved to put the issue on where to place license plate reader on the agenda, and Brian seconded. All were in favor. Brian then made a motion to have Reid and Ross discuss location for license plate reader in the future. This was seconded by Reid, who will come to the next meeting with a suggestion. All were in favor. Freddy mentioned that if we want to pay a person to monitor Lakeview cameras this may be something to consider. Ross indicated that NOPD officers are welcome in the Real Time Center any time.

Public Comments:

Throughout the meeting the public asked questions about the increased burglaries, and these were answered by Sgt. Benjamin, Brian Anderson and Freddy Yoder.

Motion to Adjourn: At approximately 7:45, Ann moved to adjourn and Nancy seconded.