

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

June 25, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Freddy Yoder called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m., and roll was called. In addition to Freddy Yoder, in attendance were commissioners, Ann LeBlanc, Val Cupit, Reid Raymond, Brian Anderson, Trey Babin, Nancy Lytle, Jeb Bruneau, and Melissa Lessell. Also present were board accountant Larry Jacobi, board attorney Richard Bordelon and LCPD Commander Sgt. Benjamin.

Approval of the Minutes: Reid moved to approve the May 28, 2020 minutes, Ann seconded and the motion carried.

Crime Report:

- June stats

Sgt. Benjamin presented the crime report indicating that there were 1660 crimes in June citywide; 130 occurred in the Third District and 14 occurred Lakeview and they were all property crimes, no persons crimes. In Lakeview ("LV"), there was one aggravated burglary, four burglaries, three auto burglaries, one auto theft, three shoplifting cases and two thefts.

He described the aggravated burglary as occurring on Avenue A and involving a known male entering a victim's unsecured residence and causing a physical altercation with the victim over a female. The accused then took the victim's keys and fled the location in the victim's vehicle. The vehicle mysteriously reappeared in the victim's driveway the next day. Within 24 hours, detectives identified the perpetrator. A warrant was issued.

The 1 auto theft occurred June 13 and involved an unsecured vehicle, with key inside, stolen from a work site. The 3 auto burglaries showed no evidence of forced entry. From June 1-June 24, NOPD investigated 229 auto burglary incidents citywide. 35 occurred in the 3rd district, including 3 LV incidents. Auto burglaries account for 61.7% of all crimes reported in LV.

One resident burglary occurred on Orleans Avenue. Silverware was stolen from house unoccupied, under renovation. Three business burglaries occurred in Zone I. Perpetrators broke windows to gain entry, searched cash registers and escaped with \$2 from 1 of 3 three businesses. Within 24 hours 3rd district officers identified the perpetrator who had a criminal record for burglary. From June 1-June 24, NOPD investigated 182 burglary incidents citywide, 16 occurred in the 3rd district with 5 occurring in LV. Burglary accounts for 5% of all UCR crimes reported in LV.

The 3 shoplifting incidents occurred at Walgreen's on Harrison. In 2 incidents, body wash was stolen. No arrest was made. Police were not called out, but report writing unit was called and took

report over the phone. In the third incident, 2 large bottles of alcohol were stolen, the store manager informed LCPD, and the subject was located, was issued a summons, but could not be arrested because of COVID. From June 1-June 24, NOPD investigated 170 shoplifting incidents citywide, 14 occurred in 3rd district with three occurring in LV. Shoplifting accounts for 10.8% of the UCR crimes reported in LV.

Generally, the shoplifting incidents happen before 2 p.m. LCPD officers working during the day time try to do as many business checks as possible, either every 30 minutes or every hour. The platoon officers who have to write reports, are instructed to do so in the parking lot of NOLA Bean and Walgreens so police can be visible.

Regarding the thefts, a bicycle was stolen on Walker street and a parcel package was stolen on Louisville. From June 1-June 24, NOPD investigated 341 theft incidents citywide. 15 occurred in the 3rd district with two incidents occurring in LV. Theft accounts for 10% of the UCR crimes.

Crime is down in LV 58% in June 2020 compared to June 2019. Auto burglaries and auto thefts declined in June. Patrols increased to address early school closings due to COVID and to combat the usual spike in property crime trends. No persons crimes were reported in June 2020.

In June 2020, LCPD responded to 37 property calls ranging from medical emergencies, suspicious suspects, burglar alarms and 911 calls. LCPD Officers were the first to arrive on scene in under 6 minutes, providing an average response time of 5 minutes 09 seconds.

- Year to date (“YTD”) stats

YTD, there have been 120 UCR crimes in LV: 11 stolen vehicles, with 7 recovered and one arrest; 13 shoplifting investigations, 5 cleared by arrest (38% clearance rate); 12 theft investigations, 3 cleared by arrest (25% clearance rate); 74 auto burglary investigations, 26 cleared by arrest (34% clearance rate); 5 burglary investigations, with 3 cleared by warrant (60% clearance); 1 aggravated burglary with one case cleared by warrant. Auto burglaries leading non-violent property crime citywide to date. Of the 229 auto burglaries, 38 were in 3rd district and 3 in LV. Since COVID, Phase 2, NOPD investigated 13.7 auto burglaries were investigated per day. So, it has increased. Surge occurring in districts other than 3rd. Re: persons crimes, YTD: 2 domestic incidents involving known perpetrators were both solved; 1 aggravated battery with known offender, cleared by warrant; 1 rape involving known accused offender, still under investigation. So, of the 4 persons crimes, three have been solved. YTD in LV, overall crime has gone down in 2020 compared to 2019 (-17%). We had one each of aggravated burglary and aggravated battery with none of either last year. Shoplifting is up due to incidents at Walgreen’s.

There have been 116 property crimes in LV, and 4 persons crimes.

- Questions/Discussion

Val asked if computer system, hampered by cyber-attack, was back up in running or was Sgt. Benjamin compiling all of the information manually which he had been doing and was very labor

intensive. He indicated that most databases (data from districts) are back on line, but he does not have access to all information.

Nancy asked about post on Nextdoor which said Metro was using prisoners for trash pickup and if there was a concern about increased miscellaneous crimes as a result. Sgt. Benjamin stated would check with the commander. He not heard about this specific practice. Val heard about low level prisoners being used for this.

Other items covered by Sgt. Benjamin

- Blue Light Cameras

Sgt. Benjamin stated that Ross Bourgeois should have five locations up and running by end of the summer. LV does not have to pay for it. City will pay. Reid asked for a list of blue light cameras in LV, to avoid duplication. Sgt. Benjamin said he asked for Ross for that and will follow up. Blue light cameras are on public poles, monitored by Real Time Crime Center.

- Chevy Tahoe

Sgt. Benjamin reached out to Charlie Tanner and learned old city contract expired, but city is under negotiations for new contract to purchase city vehicle; when that is complete, Sgt. Benjamin will be able to order a new vehicle.

- Flip phone

Sgt. Benjamin purchased a new flip phone for \$65 because the old one, which LCPD had for years, had a short in it. It is used for LCPD Escorts. Val said number is the same, 858-LCPD (5273).

Financial Report

Larry reported that collections were \$1,008,229.27 which is \$108,000 more than last year at the same time. We are nearly at 100% total collections.

City has organized their payment schedule through automatic deposits. City also allowing LCPD to review bank statements through electronic banking. All expenditures columns are within variance with exception of patrols, which are \$57,000 higher. This is for two reasons: city had to back bill us for about \$17,000 of this due to cyber issues; there have also been additional patrol expenses. Patrol rate is \$38 per hour.

Larry asked once car ordered how long does it take to get delivered, and Rene said about 3 months.

Assets are \$863,000 in the bank compared to \$654,181 last year. Vehicle not bought yet, which is one reason cash so strong.

Audit report from the independent CPA auditors will be submitted to the legislative auditors. The report opined that the financial statements by LCPD reflected financial position of district as of 12/19, etc. Per Larry, this is a clean report with no exceptions. A+ report. Report indicated assets

increased due to increase in patrols. Larry went over other areas in the report. Freddy will sign a letter indicating this was reviewed by the board and accept the results of the audit. Report originally due June 30 and we will meet this deadline.

Re: Item No. 9 on agenda. Larry will discuss areas that need resolution with Richard and present to the board in August. Larry will also have projected budget for August meeting. Board will approve budget in September and there will be submission to city by September 30/October 1. He will be in contact with Reid (re: computer budget) and Rene re: budget items, including maybe another vehicle in 2021. If there are variances in 2020 budget, we can handle that before December, 2020. Larry discussed other budget issues.

It was noted the parcel fee is \$150. Can't go up unless change legislation.

Questions from public: no one on the line.

Reid Raymond/New Business

- IT technician and assistant.

Reid offered a plan for IT. He first mentioned proposed hourly rate and job description for Ralph as IT technician and assistant. The assistant will assist technician and administrator which is Reid, who spends about 17 hours a month on his tasks for the board. Reid recommends Ralph and Reid trains the assistant to perform their duties so that the assistant can step into Ralph's and Reid's place.

Discussion included Freddy noting that Ralph was being paid \$75 an hour, and Reid recommends \$125 an hour. Melissa pointed out that the assistant would be paid more than Ralph was being paid (\$85 per hour). Richard pointed out that board will have to approve who that assistant is. Nancy recommended Sean Griffith. Board members can send proposed names to Reid. Discussion ensued about plan. Ann recommended time limit on transition to avoid duplicative cost. Melissa asked questions whether we are spending too much of our budget on IT. Reid says details re: maximum/expected costs can be worked out but wanted to get the overall plan proposed first.

Brian mentioned that there is a technology budget and a technology committee that should be able to work within it and expressed frustration of the process. Brian further mentioned as we grow technology, we need someone to help us. Reid is giving a broad look at how to do it. End goal is to replace Ralph who has asked to be replaced and we do not foresee new person will make only \$10 an hour more than Ralph. Melissa said if within the preexisting budget, she is fine with it. Reid said that is the plan. Budget for 2020 is \$33,800. \$10,700 already set aside for phase II cameras. \$9800 has been spent for Phase I. Larry said he will be getting with Reid about whether we need more in the technology budget for 2021. Freddy mentioned we need to work on this plan because unfair to rely on Reid to do work for free. He suggests Reid come back with estimate amount needed for this year and next year and we can talk about it.

Brian motion: Since board approved phase II and phase I is complete, moved for committee to find a new technician assistant to bring to the board and be approved, but to not spend a dollar

more than what is in the rest of the budget. Ann seconded motion. There was discussion. Richard said since there will be an independent contract agreement that will have to be drafted and board would have to approve person. Reid said he could come back in August with a name and plan. He asked if there was something he could do for interim needs, i.e., can he proceed with Ralph? Brian said his intent was that committee have discretion for that.

Brian amended motion: Allow the subcommittee on technology to use remaining approximate 10K in budget toward getting technician assistance at their discretion and bring name of new technician/assistant for approval by the board. Ann seconded. Roll call was taken and all were in favor.

- Amazon

Reid said in order to move toward Amazon need debit/credit card. Larry said commissioners cannot do that, but can use Larry's credit card and after 60 days can do ACH payment.

City Contract

Discussion turned to renegotiation of LCPD contract which expires December. Consideration was for Richard, Brian, Graham, Melissa, Jeb and Freddy to be involved. Since that may require committee requirements, decision was made to have Freddy, Brian and Richard talk with the city and then if a committee involvement is needed, that would be discussed. Richard was not sure how long it will take to negotiate the contract. Richard wanted to talk preliminarily before any meeting with the city.

Old business

Brian said nothing to report on his item on old business and Nancy wanted newsletter to be on next agenda.

New Business/next meeting

Trey will talk about Block Captain and Val will discuss text message alert issues.

Motion to adjourn: Nancy moved to adjourn, Val seconded. All were in favor.