

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

September 24, 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, Nancy Lytle, Melissa Lessell, Graham Ryan, Chris Beacher and Trey Babin. Also present were board accountant Larry Jacobi, board attorney Richard Bordelon and LCPD Commander Sgt. Benjamin.

Approval of the Minutes: Brian moved to approve the August 27, 2020 minutes, Nancy seconded, and the motion carried.

Crime Report:

Sgt. Benjamin presented the crime report. In September thus far, there were 1816 UCR crimes citywide, 172 in the 3rd district and 32 in Lakeview. There was an armed carjacking on 12th street on 9/12/20. The victim tossed the keys to the ground and ran away from the vehicle. The vehicle was recovered, 2 subjects have been identified, and the incident should be cleared soon by warrant. Six vehicles were stolen this month; keys or key fobs were in the vehicle. Five have been recovered. There were 19 auto-burglaries, and 22 vehicles targeted. From these burglaries 3 guns were stolen and 2 recovered. There were four shopliftings at Walgreens. Two cases involved the same person. There were two thefts. YTD there have been 217 UCR crimes which is down 2 percent from last year. Of these, there were 7 persons crimes. Response time has averaged 4.32 seconds.

Regarding the status of the vehicles, one vehicle is in the shop. The Explorer which the board has approved to be purchased will not come in until March. He doesn't need the police package for this vehicle which would cost \$31K. Brian moved to allow Larry to write a check to Bill Ford for the vehicle, Graham seconded, and all present were in favor.

Questions from the public

Katherine asked about gunshots heard on 14th street. Sgt. Benjamin stated it is believed to have been related to drug sales activity. He did not believe it was related to an auto-burglary; investigation is ongoing.

Financial Report

Larry talked about the adjusted budget of \$1,031,000 (2020). This reflects higher amounts owed the city of New Orleans due to increase in supplemental pay as a result of a millage passed. Larry has been unable to obtain a response from the city as to why LCPD is having to pay this amount.

Discussion was had on why LCPD would have to pay higher regular rate based on these increases when we already pay them OT. Depending on what is learned, we may need to approve a variance.

Larry then talked about 2021 Budget which is \$1,026,164. This basically has the same items as was discussed at the last meeting. It includes \$54,400 for IT budget (equipment \$42,400 and \$12,000 for consultant). This budget does not reflect increase in millage or supplemental pay. This may cause a need to adjust later. Brian moved to approve the budget, Ann seconded and all were in favor.

LCPD contract renewal

Brian, Freddy and Richard looked at everyone's recommendations that have been provided, including whether we could pay officers straight time (just one example) and they are going into talks with the city and the NOPD. Before signing anything, Freddy will report back to the board. There were requests by several board members to be updated during the process.

Crime Camera Report-Reid

Reid reported that Phase 2 had started. 25 cameras have been installed, 17 of which are replacements. Phase 1 is complete with 34 cameras, so a total of 59 will be placed when Phase 2 is done. Reid and Ralph Schindler conducted four job interviews for the IT position. Reid is going to report back to the board on whom he and Ralph believe are the best candidate for the job.

Motion to adjourn by Ann, Nancy seconded and all were in favor. The meeting ended at approximately 7:50 p.m.