

**Board of Commissioners  
Lake Vista Crime Prevention District  
Lake Vista Community Center, Second Floor  
January 11, 2023, 5:30PM  
Minutes**

1. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.
  - a. Introduction of Commissioners in attendance: Blanchard, Mann, Moore, O'Brien, Hardie  
Late Arrival: Junius
  - b. Welcome and Introduction of new 3<sup>rd</sup> District Captain Sandra Contreras, NOPD Captain Contreras was recently transferred from the Westbank. She served the 3<sup>rd</sup> District years ago, so she is familiar with the area. She has been a police officer half of her life and enjoys what she does. She is happy to join us this evening and if anyone has any questions, she is happy to answer them after the meeting.
2. Meeting Minutes Approval – Mann motioned to dispense reading and approve minutes, O'Brien seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. Finance Report: We have supplied copies of the financial report if anyone is interested in reviewing them. Commissioner Settoon, Treasurer, has given his resignation as he has accepted a position with the Flood Authority board creating a conflict of interest with his position with LVCPD. It has been hectic the last couple of weeks with accounting because we use dual signature authentication on our accounts. It takes a few weeks to process the paperwork at the bank to change signers. Also, because we just recently changed to a computerized QuickBooks accounting process from the previous manual process, the vacant Treasurer's position filled a void in our procedures. As President, I was able to step in as interim Treasurer to process payments and create a financial statement. The report is very basic. Our largest costs remain with our detail and camera expenses. Question from attendee: Why is there a separate line item for operating balance equity? That line is opening balance equity because of a journal entry needed when we started using

QuickBooks. Blanchard asked if anyone had any questions. No questions asked. Blanchard moved to approve the financial report. Motioned to approve by Moore, seconded by Mann. Unanimously approved.

4. Blanchard put forth a nomination for commissioner Jessica Hardie to be our new Treasurer. Moore motioned to approve. Seconded by O'Brien. Unanimously approved. We will move through the process to have Jessica added to the bank account. It makes it difficult for us, as volunteers, to do the initiatives we want to do because we are managing all the changes. Blanchard noted that moving forward, he will be setting up procedures so that as we bring on new commissioners, it will make it much easier for them to step into their positions.
5. OLDP Detail Report: Captain Mike Brenckle – Two crimes this last quarter; a burglary on Dove Street, an air compressor was stolen from the garage. The victim knew the guy that stole it. He was a former handyman. The NOPD solved the case and issued a warrant. There was a residential burglary on Spanish Fort. The front door of the house was opened with a wedge-like instrument, possibly a tire iron. The house was ransacked, the doors were left open. Prescription medication was taken, also a couple of chainsaws, an iPad, jewelry, coins, and some collectible items. The suspect's vehicle was a newer model Chevy Silverado. Also, when one of our officers was on patrol, NOPD broadcasted a suspicious vehicle that was stolen. Our detail officer happened to see the vehicle on Wren St. & Marconi and pursued chase to New Orleans East. The vehicle crashed into a bus and the officers apprehended three juvenile suspects. One gun and drugs were recovered. No one was injured.
6. NOPD Report: 3<sup>rd</sup> District Captain Sandra Contreras, NOPD – The majority of the crime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District has been occurring in the Gentilly/Elysian Fields area. NOPD has been patrolling what they call "Blue Light Patrol." Continuously driving the area with a dedicated vehicle with flashing lights for visibility. It appears to be working so they will continue to try it out for about a month or so. And if the crime moves somewhere else, they will move the car to that area. Captain Contreras mentioned that if we ever have questions or concerns to feel free to contact her at the station or you can email her at [srcontreras@nola.gov](mailto:srcontreras@nola.gov)

7. Commissioner Update: With Commissioner Settoon moving to the Flood Authority Board, we currently have one vacancy. We will have another opening in May as Moore will be rolling off the board. Blanchard noted that, at this time, he would like the board to vote on Moore's replacement as Secretary. Blanchard nominated commissioner O'Brien as the incoming Secretary to replace Moore effective June 1, 2023. Hardie seconded. Unanimously approved. Blanchard mentioned that he too is supposed to be rolling off the board at the end of May, but he does not feel like he can do that right now. Once I get all the processes documented (Standard Operating Procedures) and some of the technology done, then the board will be in much better shape. New commissioner Nathan Junius introduced to everyone. Opened introduction by letting everyone know that his home was hit by a drunk driver on New Year's morning. Levee Board Police did a fantastic job handling the situation. Blanchard mentioned that there will be two vacancies, so if there is anyone interested in joining the board, please let Blanchard know. One position is through LVPOA and the other through Stephanie Hilferty's office and these are four-year terms.
  
8. LVCPD Camera Initiative – Blanchard: At the October meeting we discussed new initiatives for the cameras. Blanchard commented that honestly, we have had a few setbacks with getting the ball rolling with the camera initiatives but that we are going to have committee meetings soon to get this initiative going in the right direction. We already have one resident that is willing to put the camera up and tested and we will get that going. We currently have LPR cameras along the perimeter of the neighborhood and Safe Cam cameras that are strategically placed around the perimeter. The LPR cameras take snap shots of license plates and descriptions of vehicles, and the Safe Cam cameras are used to identify additional information on those vehicles but together they work well. We just do not have enough of them. The idea with this new camera is for the OLD detail person to have an iPad or iPhone, while patrolling, and be able to get a notification that someone is walking down the street on Flamingo at 3am. It is not going to catch cats or dogs. It will have object recognition. We figure it is very expensive for us to try to add more patrols, more

police. They do not have the manpower, and we cannot afford them if they did. We would have to double/triple our budget. We are going to try to use technology to do it. It is going to get better as ring gets better and as more people get cameras. We can put them all together in a mesh to see what is going on in the neighborhood. Ideally, this is what needs to happen.

9. Unfinished Business – Blanchard

- a) Road and Street Work Repair - Hilferty will get an update on the street work. As for the streetlights, her contact with (DPW) Department of Public Works has since left. Hilferty will be looking for her new contact. However, the city does have a contract with All Star Electric. Tara Landry has done a very good comprehensive survey of outages in the neighborhood.
- b) Parcel Fee – Blanchard mentioned that he would like to talk about and get some input from everyone about where we should be with our parcel tax fee and what is tolerable to the neighborhood. The issue we have is that our detail costs have gone up from \$35/hr. to \$55/hr. At this point, we can only withstand that for the next 3-5 years and then we will have to have an increase. Hilferty will check our statute to see if there is anything we need to do to bring it back up to \$220/yr. Blanchard believes that \$250 is palatable. Some residents have suggested going as high as \$400. If we want to go beyond the current statute of \$220, we should send out a survey to the neighborhood and get some feedback. We do not want this to fail. Comment from attendee suggesting that going back to \$220 would reduce resistance from residence.

10. Blanchard thanked everyone for attending the meeting and with no additional questions or comments, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Moore  
Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.