

**Board of Commissioners
Lake Vista Crime Prevention District
Lake Vista Community Center, Second Floor
October 18, 2022, 5:30PM
Minutes**

1. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
 - a. Introduction of Law Enforcement Officials and Representatives: Kelly Lopardi, OLDP Detail Coordinator; Captain Mike Brenckle, OLDP; Captain Thomas Harrington, OLD Chief Superintendent of Police; Lt. Commander Ernest Luster, NOPD 3rd District; Captain Wayne DeLarge II, NOPD 3rd District; Anne Kiefer, Councilman Greene's office; Donna Gordon, Legislative Aide to Stephanie Hilferty.
 - b. Introduction of Commissioners in attendance: Blanchard, Hardie, Settoon, Mann, & Moore. Absent: O'Brien

2. Meeting Minutes Approval – Mann motioned to approve minutes, Hardie seconded. Unanimously approved.

3. Finance Report: Settoon - The bulk of our income from assessments comes early in the year from the city. Some funds do trickle in. We recently received \$1200 plus \$361 in interest. Our biggest expense is our patrols and camera connectivity. We are in good shape. Blanchard noted that if anyone is interested in the financial report, copies are on the table. Moore motioned to approve the financial report, Mann seconded. Unanimously approved.

4. OLDP Report: Newly appointed Chief Harrington spoke regarding the recent LVCPD Patrol officers being arrested for fraudulently claiming patrol duty. Charges have been filed and a total of four Levee District Police were terminated. Two were part of the Lake Vista Patrol. Chief Harrington is putting things in place to prevent this from reoccurring such as punching in/out at the station clock and providing vehicles with

GPS. In this position approximately four weeks now, Chief Harrington is realizing that he needs to take a serious look at the many private patrols the OLDP covers. As it stands, OLD is short of officers which makes it harder to fill detail positions. There is difficulty recruiting and it takes years to get quality police trained. It was noted that LVCPD was never billed for the time the officers claimed they were on duty. The sign in sheets and billing records indicated a redaction of those time sheets.

Kelly Lopardi commented that there are shortages in staffing the LV Patrol. Lopardi also noted that they also have officers from the EJLD that sign up to fill positions for the LV Detail. Lopardi mentioned that the officers are still being paid at the current rate and feels that once the rate is increased there will be more participation. The LVCPD board is waiting for the OLDP to present a new contract with the updated costs. Harrington noted that he has been busy with other important items and just has not had a chance to review and draw up a new contract. An increase in hourly rate is more attractive and more competitive to draw more detail participation.

Blanchard mentioned that board has budgeted the increase in the 2023 proposed financial budget. We based the numbers on a 10-hour night instead of 12 hours. At the new rate we will be eating away at the funds that are in the account right now and will require the need to increase the parcel tax fee. Blanchard noted that depending on the OLDP coverage, there may be a possibility of hiring an additional patrol to help fill empty spaces. However, the coordination to cover will be difficult. Chief Harrington mentioned that even though there may not be a detail officer on duty in Lake Vista rest assured that OLDP is patrolling our area and available to answer our calls.

Captain Brenckle: The biggest crime spike goes back to April. Since then, crime in LV has dropped significantly. There was one auto burglary in August. A resident noted that there was broken car windows on Spanish Fort. Police were never notified, and a report never made.

5. NOPD Report: Newly appointed Capt. Wayne DeLarge, II NOPD 3rd District. The Capt. has been a police officer for about 20years. 16 years in the investigative division, then to homicide. Having been in this position for only 11 days now, no

changes being made yet. First time hearing about the broken car windows on Spanish Fort. No report was made. Residents must call 911 to report and get an item number associated with the report. That is the only way to track crime in New Orleans. This has been a great week in relation to car theft and car burglaries. NOPD is seeing that it is a small amount of people committing most crimes. NOPD is also short staffed, but they are doing the best with what they have. If you have already reported a crime through OLDP, there is no need to contact the NOPD. Lake Vista residents should contact OLDP first at (504) 283-9800. NOPD Lt. Luster noted that once the report is filed with OLDP, he will send an NOPD officer to follow up. Many instances where juveniles are committing crimes are not reported. These crimes sometimes make the news, but reports were never filed, so NOPD has no awareness of the situation, but it is all-over social media and magnified on the news. There is a small group of criminals terrorizing throughout the city. If we push hard on legislature during our voting season and get Judges and the District Attorney to get stiffer on crime. If we can combat the legislative forces our guys are dedicated even with the challenges. OLDP is of great assistance to us, and they have a great Chief that is cleaning house. We have a great collaborative effort to fight crime, but we need legislative effort to keep the criminals in custody. Also noted that if you see something and you are concerned about your safety call is Crimestoppers at (504) 822-1111. You can remain anonymous. One of the most important messages we can give to residents is to protect your weapons. Please DO NOT leave them in your vehicles and inside your home. With the holiday season approaching do not leave shopping packages inside your car. Always put them in your trunk. Lastly, porch package crime is up. Plan to have packages delivered to your business or a safe location if you are not home to receive it.

6. LVCPD Website: The website has been moved to the LVPOA website at <https://www.golvpoa.com> , but you can still reach it via www.lvcpd.com and you will be redirected. Regular updates will be posted to the site.

7. Commissioner Update: We currently have one Commissioner vacancy on the board via Councilman Greene. If anyone present or know of anyone that would be interested in volunteering, please contact Charles Blanchard. We will also have another vacancy or two in May 2023.

8. LVCPD Camera Initiative: Blanchard noted that we are trying to do is to find ways to help our detail with this initiative. We have budgeted in 2023 to have one camera that will monitor activity late in the night. The same guy that built the Safe Cam cameras for NOPD/city is going to build one specifically for our neighborhood and we are going to evaluate it. The cost of this camera is \$2500.00 each camera and it is not in the budget to buy more than one. It will be placed on a light pole and, what it will do is look both ways down the street, preferably down the middle. It will monitor activity late in the night. The idea is for it to detect activity such as a car or person and send the information directly to OLDP detail. Since there is no monitoring of this device the problem would come in when there is no detail on duty. Someone from the board would need to monitor. Will need to investigate the coordination of this. Location has not been decided. There is upkeep but the biggest cost will be the internet connectivity to the camera. We are looking at doing some point-to-point connectivity to it from a neighbor's house where we would get approval by the neighbor to set up a second internet account. We should have an update on that by the next meeting in January, as we progress with it. LV resident on Thrasher, Matt Morel, has offered to purchase one of the \$2500 cameras for his street. Blanchard mentioned that originally it was his idea to get residents to purchase by street. Blanchard commented that the board is still looking at the possibility of doing voluntary donations for the detail. This will have to go through the LVPOA because we will not be able to mix the LVCPD budget with the parcel tax fee with the LVPOA. It will have to go through a separate entity if not the LVPOA. A resident commented on the possibility of issuing each resident a reflective sticker to place on each car. Blanchard thought that was a great idea and something to look at.

9. Unfinished Business: Rep. Hilferty provided information regarding Parcel Fee Increase information. We now have everything we need to put forth an increase. We

will need to figure out the amount. \$300? \$250? We do not want to put something forth that residents will vote against, but we do not want it to be too little, so we will have to agree on a happy medium. Will be deciding on this very soon. Blanchard noted to Kiefer that City Councilman Greene mentioned the possibility of inviting a Juvenile Judge and/or the D.A. Blanchard brought up roads/street light repair. Donna Gordon with Hilferty's office said the road construction on Spanish Fort should be completed in 2-3 weeks. Gordon has a contact with the city with the infrastructure. Blanchard will get a list of light outages in LV and send them to Hilferty. Blanchard commented on an email he received from resident Tom Long to the board regarding his views against the OLDP, noting that if the board continues with the OLDP detail he is sure most residents will vote down the Lake Vista Security Tax District in the next election cycle. Blanchard noted that he does not agree with Mr. Long. OLDP works hard to make sure Lake Vista is safe. The days of Metro Security Detail will not work today. One of the residents spoke to the fact that while patrolling, one of the detail officers stopped to give his wife a fridge magnet and let her know that if she ever needs an escort home to call the number. She uses it frequently. Settoon clarified the earlier comment about whether the OLDP reimbursed LVCPD the money from the officer committing fraud against the detail. Settoon, Blanchard, and Moore receive bi-weekly invoices with time sheets. The time sheets from the detail officers were crossed through removing their shift from the billing time sheet. Those shifts were never billed and never paid. Once the invoices are received, we all review them. Settoon processes the bills through Gulf Coast Bank online payment. Settoon processes the draft/s and Moore approves the payment. Blanchard is aware of all actions. There is accountability. OLDP, Lopardi noted that the dollar amount noted in the news media was the total that the officers tried to claim but did not get paid. The dollar amount would also determine whether their crime was a misdemeanor or felony. Kiefer commented that on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Newman Center at UNO at 6:00pm, she organizes a community meeting called Voices of the Victims of Crime. The next speaker will be Criminal Court Judge, Tracey Flemings-Davillier. Kiefer asked the Judge to bring a Magistrate Judge with her. Most citizens do not understand the

Magistrate system. This is where the bonds are set and released. Kiefer feels that the more involved we are as citizens, the more our city officials will respond. We just must be involved. Please try to attend if possible.

Blanchard thanked everyone for attending the meeting. With no additional questions or comments, he motioned to adjourn. Hardie seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Gloria Moore, Secretary