

NON-FLOOD ASSET PROTECTION MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2010 – 11:30 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Police Committee of the Non-Flood Asset Protection Management Authority was held on Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 11:30 A.M., in the Lake Vista Community Center, 2nd Floor, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member, the news media, and a copy of the call was posted.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Baudy at 11:52 A.M.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Romona Theresa Baudy (Chairing for Carlton Dufrechou)
Commissioner Darrel Saizan

FURTHERMORE PRESENT:

Robert E. Smith Lupo

ABSENT:

Chairman Carlton Dufrechou

STAFF:

Nick Tusa, OLD-PD
Sharon Martiny, Non-Flood

ALSO PRESENT:

Major Donald Booth
Albert Pappalardo
Police Chief Richard Lewis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Saizan offered a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Baudy and unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Commissioner Saizan offered a motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Baudy and unanimously adopted.

CURRENT POLICE ISSUES

1. Current Police Department Budget

Mr. Capo addressed the budget through October 31, 2010. The annual budget for the Police Department is \$2.65 million dollars which includes everything associated with police administration, police headquarters and the officers. Two significant items on the revenue side are the split cost for the police, which is approximately \$1.34 million and paid by the Flood side. Also, \$37,500 in revenue for police take-home vehicles. Police officers are charged \$125 per month for take-home vehicles.

Personnel Services or manpower; this year we have spent \$673,000 on salaries, overtime, retirement, health care and benefits. We budgeted approximately \$2.2 million for the year and there is \$1.5 million remaining. Insurance and Workers Comp. have been paid for the year which is why those numbers are large. We

had budgeted \$48,000 but it was actually \$53,000. On Workers Comp. we budgeted \$35,000 and it was a little over \$35,000.

Inter-Divisional Good & Services - \$56,000; mostly mechanical services provided by the flood side. Auto Repairs was budgeted for \$50,500 and we have spent approximately \$19,000 on vehicles sent out for repair (transmissions, engines or major work) by outside vendors. .

Autos/Trucks Fuel is budgeted at \$105,000 for fuel for police vehicles; year to date we have spent \$29,000 and there is approximately \$76,000 remaining. Autos/Trucks – this line item is the parts associated with in-house vehicles. We have budgeted \$60,000 and we have spent approximately \$7,400 year to date and have \$52,000 remaining. Total Expense - \$2.6 million; we have spent \$843,000 and we have \$1.8 million remaining. We are going to have a shortfall with the police but this is going to be picked up by the Non-Flood side because the total expenses for the police are split 50/50 with the Flood Authority.

2. Number of police vehicles and take home vehicles

Currently there are 28 take-home vehicles.

3. Scope of work and OLD police duties and responsibilities

Commissioner Saizan requested Chief Lewis explain the scope of work, the areas patrolled and the agreement with the City. Chief Lewis reported that there are 30 commissioned police officers. Three officers are assigned to administration and two officers are in Afghanistan until next year. The 25 remaining officers patrol the 5½ mile area of Lakeshore Drive which includes 5 subdivisions, a shopping center, several schools and the Airport. The Seabrook subdivision is on the opposite side of Robert E. Lee and we assist the City with that. The officers patrol 104 miles of flood walls and levees; during the summertime on a 24-hour basis. Non-Flood and Flood are patrolled at the same time as we are being paid by both agencies. During hurricane season we pay more attention to the hurricane levees and during the spring we pay more attention to the river levees. We work closely with the universities and are first responders for them. We work with the federal government and the Secret Service and assist in escorting dignitaries from out of town. In the 90's the city was short of personnel when the Levee Board was bringing in the casino. There was concern about possible crime occurring. We made an agreement with Chief Pennington that we would expand our area of patrol upon availability to assist them. That agreement has been intact and when they are short on personnel we respond to the emergency if we have a vehicle available. This has been in place since 1992.

The patrol area is from 17th Street Canal, down Hayne Blvd and east to Crowder Blvd., the Little Woods area and from Robert E. Lee into the Lakeview area. On any given shift there are 12 officers and it is a 24 hour operation.

Commissioner Saizan questioned if Chief Lewis interfaces with subdivision protection districts and the security districts. Chief Lewis advised two subdivisions along Lakeshore are patrolled; Lake Vista and Lake Terrace and also Spring Lake in New Orleans East. If more subdivisions are added, the crew of officers would have to increase.

Chairman Baudy inquired as to problems with the police budget and a plan to fix the deficit. Mr. Capo informed that every year we are going to have a shortfall. He explained that there was a bill in legislature to assign monies to us from traffic tickets but that bill failed. Currently, when our officers write tickets, the money and fees associated with the tickets stays with city. Our officers attend court

which we try to stagger so they are not on overtime. If they are on overtime we pay the cost but the city receives the money. Mr. Capo further explained that other than the take-home vehicles and the 50% share with the Flood Authority, we have no revenue coming in for the police.

Commissioner Saizan questioned the manpower when Lakeshore Drive is open and the Lakefront is put back in use sometime in the fall of 2011. Chief Lewis explained he has been pressing to get that before the Board. In the 80's we used to patrol holidays or Sundays with 32 officers for that one day which helped keep major problems down. In the French Quarters and locations with large groups of people without adequate police protection you have problems. The Lakefront is starting to look beautiful and people are dying to get back to it. We are going to need the manpower to patrol it.

Commissioner Saizan commented that the Lakefront is not just Orleans residents; it is Jefferson Parish and people from places that don't have a lakefront so you have added concern.

Mr. Capo added that in the mid and late 90's there were 60 regular police officers plus 10 in the COPS unit which was a substation along Hayne Blvd. There was also a mounted patrol unit and drug sniffing dogs. The number of police and the function of the police have drastically changed over time. We are down to 28 officers from a total of 70 and we no longer have the drug sniffing dogs and mounted police.

Commissioner Baudy referred to the deficit and questioned if it is wise to have so many cars because of the gasoline and the insurance. Chief Lewis explained it is a marketing tool because as opposed to the Bridge Police, the Harbor Police, New Orleans Police, Sheriff Gusman, and the Universities we have nothing to offer a person when he comes in other than a police take home vehicle which they pay for that privilege.

Mr. Capo stated that since Katrina we required officers pay \$125 for a take-home vehicle to offset some of the fuel costs. The insurance will probably not go down because you pay a flat rate for the insurance whether the car is sitting at the Levee District or at home. Chief Lewis further stated that if vehicles were not taken home they would be running 24 hours a day because when one shift gets off the other shift is going to get the same vehicle.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Saizan offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Baudy and unanimously adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Capo announced the next Police Committee meeting being January 11, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.