



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

JAMES J. DONELON
COMMISSIONER



MEETING MINUTES

LOUISIANA AUTOMOBILE THEFT & INSURANCE FRAUD PREVENTION AUTHORITY

Wednesday, October 14, 2021

10:00 am

LDI Plaza Hearing Room

1702 North Third Street, Poydras Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Members present: Warren Byrd, Renée Free, Lt. Michael Wilkerson, Barry Milligan,
Thomas Jeter, Natalie Brunson-Wheeler, Senator Kirk Talbot

Members absent: David Clements, Rep. Mike Huval, David Marcantel

Staff present: Crystal Stutes, John Ford, Kevin Smith
Special Agent Allen Applewhite (NICB)

Call to Order:

Chairman Warren Byrd called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Old Business:

Approval of July 2021 Minutes: Mr. Tommy Jeter moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021, meeting. Ms. Renée Free seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

New Business:

Director Introduction – Chairman Byrd introduced Crystal Stutes who is the new LATIFPA Director. Ms. Stutes has been with the Department of Insurance for nearly 32 years and is the immediate past Director of the Louisiana Health Care Commission at the LDI.

LATIFPA Grant Applications - LATIFPA received two grant requests from Baker Police Department and Walker Police Department to be presented at this meeting. Baker Police Department requested a stationary LPR and Walker Police Department submitted a request for a mobile LPR. Following a presentation by each, Mr. Jeter moved to approve the grant for the Baker Police Department. Ms. Natalie Brunson-Wheeler seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed and the Baker Police Department's grant was approved. Senator Kirk Talbot then moved to approve the Walker Police Department's grant application. Mr. Barry Milligan seconded



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the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed and the Walker Police Department's grant was approved.

Budget Report (attached): Mr. John Ford reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year updated as of 10/12/21. Mr. Ford stated that since the previous meeting, LATIFPA has spent \$16,175 on radio spots and \$14,000 on tv spots. (All approved previously at the July 2021 meeting). LATIFPA also spent \$31,850 for the Plaquemines Parish LPR and \$1,126.31 on the Lafayette Parish repair of one of their LPR. Finally, LATIFPA spent \$130 on an assessment of a State Police LPR.

Mr. Ford discussed the "Projected Expenditures" section as explained that the TBD amount of nearly \$30,000 under Advertising is being allocated to a few more anti-theft ads as well as to publicize the EBRSO catalytic converter event which we hope to do in the new year.

Furthermore, LATIFPA has two approved / projects that are currently in progress, which are the St. Bernard Parish and EBR Parish LPRs. Mr. Ford stated that we also have the Catalytic Converter Tags project which is still in progress and will cost \$2,672.

So once the paid and projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$216,638.31 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$10,361.69 carrying over into the next fiscal year. This would leave us with \$176,773.98 in the "cash carryover account" (\$393,412.29 in FY21/22 actual collections minus the \$216,638.31 expenditures) for the next fiscal year.

Marketing and External Affairs – LATIFPA Ad Campaigns: Mr. Ford briefly reviewed statistics from TV and radio spots that were approved by the board at a previous meeting (attached).

Marketing and External Affairs – Hide Lock Take Project: Mr. Ford gave an update on Hide Lock Take project which was an endeavor to place signs in a neighborhood that would help remind residents of car safety practices. A resident from New Orleans had expressed an interest in getting a grant to cover this. LATIFPA is requesting a grant from State Farm Foundation for approximately \$2,000 to place 120 signs in the neighborhood. Mr. Ford stated that due to the way LATIFPA has to apply for the grant through the LDI, it is taking a bit of time as we needed to request some information from the IRS that the vendor needed. We will also need to work with the New Orleans Police Department to determine who will be responsible for installing the signs.

Marketing and External Affairs – Catalytic Converter Tags: Mr. Kevin Smith reviewed the plans to sponsor a Catalytic Converter Tag event to distribute tags to consumers and have them installed on their cars. LATIFPA did receive the tags and staff will meet with EBRSO soon to plan an event.

Marketing and External Affairs – School/Community Events Update: Mr. Smith provided an update on LATIFPA community events (see attached).



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LPR Project Updates – LPR Partner Letter: It was discussed that LATIFPA was experiencing a lack of reporting from the participating LPR grantees. It is critical to receive this information in order to have some type of performance measures in place to justify the granting of the LPRs. As such, Chairman Byrd discussed a letter that he and the LATIFPA staff drafted that we would submit to the LPR grantees reminding them of the importance of submitting timely information and statistics to justify keeping the equipment. (A final letter is attached.) After changes were made, it was agreed that the letter should be disseminated among the LPR grantees.

LPR Project Updates – LaTech LPR Pilot Project: Mr. Kevin Smith discussed a new camera that LaTech is developing that would be less expensive to produce. The EBR Sheriff's Office will be the group to try the new camera to see if it is something we would like to use in the future.

Mr. Allen Applewhite then gave the NICB report on the statistics submitted by the LPR grantees.

It was announced that the LDI Conference 2022 would be held March 7 and 8, 2022.

The next LATIFPA meeting will be announced later but is expected to be held in late January.

There being no other business, Chairman Byrd moved to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.