

MINUTES

Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)

January 9, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Warren Byrd called the meeting of the **Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)** to order at 2:12 p.m. Director Denise Cassano called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Mr. Warren Byrd
Mr. Larry Hinton
Mr. Mike Boydston
Treasurer John Kennedy by proxy (Jason Stagg)

Members Absent

Lieutenant Allen Carpenter
Representative Karen Carter
Senator James David Cain
Mr. Richard Soileau
Mr. Rodley Henry
Attorney General Appointee
(Vacancy)
Commissioner at Large Appointee
(Vacancy)

Staff Members Present

Ms. Denise Cassano
Mr. Kevin Smith
Ms. Alydia Washington
Mr. Beau Schexnaldre

Staff Members Absent

Ms. Virginia G. Benoist,
Assistant Attorney General, Legal
Counsel

Chairman Warren Byrd declared that a quorum was not present. The adoption of the September 18, 2007 minutes was deferred. Chairman Byrd introduced Ms. Alydia Washington who was recently hired by the Louisiana Department of Insurance as a new member of the **LATIFPA** staff.

Director Denise Cassano gave a report on the fundraising efforts, other donations, contributions and expenditures of the LATIFPA. The report was accepted as given.

Director Cassano reported on the October 29, 2007 meeting of the **LATIFPA** Steering Committee on Equipment Purchases. At that time the committee met to review and modify the Selection Application for distribution to local law enforcement agencies in Louisiana with populations over 50,000 for the purpose of awarding a License Plate Reader to the qualifying agency as approved by its Board of Directors at its September 18, 2007 meeting. Ms. Cassano further reported that during this meeting, this committee also established the goals and objectives of this program and discussed the various vendors and vendor quotes under consideration by the committee. The committee concluded that there should be another meeting held at a later date between Lieutenant Allen Carpenter, Committee Chairman and the **LATIFPA** staff to review the above mentioned documents prior to distribution at the next meeting of the Steering Committee on Equipment Purchases. Director Cassano then asked Assistant Director Kevin Smith to give an overview of the vendors and the vendor quotes.

Mr. Smith reported on the two vendors under consideration, that of Remington Elsig Law Enforcement Systems, LLC and Pips Technology. He presented the members with a comparison of the two companies which included the components of each piece of equipment as well as the costs related to each piece of equipment. He described the similarities and the differences of each piece of equipment and entertained questions by the board members. He further stated that Pips Technology would be given an opportunity, at the end of the month, to make a presentation to the staff and steering committee members.

Mr. Charlie Peters, agent for the National Insurance Crime Bureau, reported on the deployment and installation activities of the bait vehicles in place with the Baton Rouge Police Department, Shreveport Police Department and the Bossier City Police Department. A report of these activities was submitted to the **LATIFPA** Board of Directors. These reports indicate that a bait vehicle was deployed in Bossier City for a total 272 hours during the month of December, 2007 with no activations. A bait vehicle was deployed in Shreveport during calendar year 2007 for a total of 2,111 hours, resulting in six activations with a total of four felony arrests. A bait vehicle was deployed in Baton Rouge during calendar year 2007 for a total of 4,899 hours resulting in 16 activations with a total of 28 felony arrests.

Assistant Director Kevin Smith reported on the curriculums/presentations that have been made in the middle schools under the **LATIFPA** Public Awareness Program. Mr. Smith stated that, to date, the middle school curriculum had been presented in five different public schools and three other organizations that assist middle and high school age individuals. At the time of reporting, Mr. Smith stated that the curriculum has been presented to 3,401 students and juvenile detainees. The report was accepted as given.

Chairman Byrd opened discussion regarding legislative items for development and adoption by the board for filing during the 2008 Regular Legislative Session. One item under discussion was permanent funding for the **LATIFPA** programs. Another discussion item was a call for clarification on the statute regarding a quorum of the Board of Directors. Under question was

whether or not the language outlined in the statute clearly indicates the necessary members present for a quorum or should the law be amended with language that is less ambiguous as to the intent of the law. Chairman Byrd agreed to submit language for consideration by the Board at its next meeting.

There was no further business being offered by any member. There were no public comments. Mr. Henry made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.