



## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

JAMES J. DONELON  
COMMISSIONER



### MEETING MINUTES

## LOUISIANA AUTOMOBILE THEFT & INSURANCE FRAUD PREVENTION AUTHORITY

Thursday, August 12, 2022

10:00 am

LDI Hearing Room  
1702 North Third Street, Poydras Building  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Members present: Warren Byrd, Rep. Mike Huval, Thomas Jeter, David Marcantel, Barry Milligan, Chris Styron, Sen. Kirk Talbot, Natalie Brunson-Wheeler

Members absent: David Clements, Renée Free, Lt. Michael Wilkerson

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

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Warren Byrd called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

### **Old Business:**

*Approval of April 28, 2022 Minutes:* Rep. Mike Huval moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting. Mr. Thomas Jeter seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

### **New Business:**

Chairman Byrd introduced Mr. Chris Styron with the Attorney General's office as the newest member of the LATIFPA Board of Directors.

*Budget Report (attached):* Ms. Crystal Stutes reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year updated as of 07/27/22.

Once projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$201,638.95 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$25,361.05 carrying over into the next fiscal year. This would leave us with \$191,930.34 in the "cash carryover account" (\$393,569.29 in FY21/22 actual collections minus the \$201,638.95 expenditures) for the next fiscal year.



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*LPR Installations and Operation Updates* - Mr. Kevin Smith gave an update on the installation and operation of various cameras that were in operation under our grants. He advised that State Police and the LDI were still awaiting final review of several new cameras that were being tested for use as LPRs.

Mr. Smith stated that we hope to have Lt. Wilkerson and Sgt. Jonathan Kemp at the next meeting to talk to the board about the new LPRs being reviewed.

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

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

Next Ms. Stutes reviewed new ideas for investment of LATIFPA funds (attached).

The board discussed the idea of increasing the media budget in order to increase anti-fraud ads around the holidays. Mr. John Ford, Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs elaborated on what marketing campaigns may work best regarding time and placement.

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

There being no other business, Ms. Natalie Brunson-Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Barry Milligan seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**LATIFPA BUDGET PLAN**  
**FY 2021-2022 (as of 7/27/22)**

	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b><u>Actual Collections (Cash Available):</u></b>			
FY 21-22 Cash Carryover	\$206,396.29		
FY 21-22 Stat Ded. Assessment Proceeds	\$187,000.00		
FY 21-22 Gifts, Grants, Donations	\$0.00		
Interest	<u>\$173.00</u>		
<b>Actual Collections (Cash Available)</b>	<b>\$393,569.29</b>		<b>\$393,569.29</b>

**Projected Expenditures:**

Advertising - \$60,000 (Approved By Board)			
<i>Kingfish Communications (Radio Spots)</i>		(\$16,175.00)	
<i>Gray Media (Media Buys)</i>		(\$14,000.00)	
<i>Diane Allen &amp; Associates</i>		(\$29,744.50)	
Marketing Materials			
NICB Expenditures (FY 21-22 Agreement Balance-\$250,500.86)			
<i>License Plate Readers LPRs</i>			
<i>Lafayette-(Repair #2)-Approved/Paid</i>		(\$1,126.31)	
<i>Plaquemines-Approved/Paid</i>		(\$31,850.00)	
<i>St. Bernard-Approved/Paid</i>		(\$31,850.00)	
<i>East Baton Rouge-Approved-Invoiced</i>		(\$10,390.00)	
<i>Walker PD-Approved/Paid</i>		(\$31,850.00)	
<i>Baker PD-Approved/Paid</i>		(\$31,850.00)	
<i>EBR Catalytic Converter Tags-Approved-In Progress</i>		(\$2,673.14)	
LaTech Security + Surveillance ( <i>Labor charge for assessing equipment</i> )		<u>(\$130.00)</u>	
<b>Projected Expenditures</b>		<b>(\$201,638.95)</b>	<b>(\$201,638.95)</b>

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FY 21-22 Budget Authority:

<i>From FY 21-22 Stat Ded Assessment Proceeds</i>	\$187,000.00
<i>From FY 21-22 Gifts, Grants, Donations</i>	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
<b>Total FY 21-22 Budget Authority<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$227,000.00</b>
Minus: FY 21-22 Projected Expenditures	<u>(\$201,638.95)</u>
FY 21-22 Remaining Budget Authority	\$25,361.05
FY 21-22 Actual Collections (Cash Available)	\$393,569.29
Minus: FY 21-22 Projected Expenditures	<u>(\$201,638.95)</u>
FY 21-22 Remaining Collections (Cash Available for Carryforward to FY 22-23)	\$191,930.34

<sup>1</sup>The maximum amount of expenditures that can occur in the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 cannot exceed the FY 21-22 Budget Authority of \$227,000.



# GRANT IDEAS FOR LATIFPA FY 22/23

Louisiana Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud  
Prevention Authority

Monday, August 12, 2022  
Crystal Stutes and Kevin Smith  
Office of Policy, Innovation and Research, LDI



## LATIFPA Annual Budget Authority: \$227,000 (\$187,000 dedicated plus \$40,000 of surplus allowed to spend)

- We currently have a carryover balance of \$191,930.34 from FY 21/22
- The cost of LPRs is decreasing with advance in technology
- The amount of LPRs requested is decreasing; likely due to an increase of other federal grants for LPRs available (One example is High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) grants)
- As such, we need to look into additional ways to invest our available funding to assist in the prevention of auto theft and insurance fraud.



## BERLA SYSTEMS – Infotainment center extraction from vehicles

Very helpful in helping investigators to identify, acquire, and analyze the vast amount of critical information stored within vehicle systems to uncover key evidence that determines what happened, where it occurred, and who was involved.

\$40K includes the equipment for investigators to use with infotainment centers and training is included for up to 3 investigators.



# FUNDING OVERTIME FOR LEOs TO INVESTIGATE AUTO THEFT

I.E., Dedicated operations on auto theft and looking for stolen cars;

LEOs would be reimbursed for work on auto enforcement, not paid up-front. These conditions need to be included in the awards letter.



# INNOVATIVE FUNDING

This could also fund specialized equipment, such as: Trackers, Laptops used to do crime analysis, bait car vehicles, software, etc.

Funding for specialized equipment is given to the agencies on a demonstrated need to enforce and prevent auto theft.



## VICTIMS CARD

A website is created with helpful information specific to Louisiana about what to do and first steps to take if you are a victim of auto theft.

Insurance agents, LEOs and regulators can share a QR code that will take the victim to the website. In Colorado, insurance agents put them in their emails to the insureds; if someone reports a theft, the LEO can assist them AND give them the website to get additional information.



## CONTACTING RECYCLERS/JUNKYARDS

LEOs could inspect metal recyclers to see how they are handling the receipt of Catalytic Converters; we could use funds to pay for overtime for LEOs to do this;

Create a survey to send to the recycling industry to see how many catalytic converters they are receiving and if they are even aware of the new laws surrounding the theft and resale of catalytic converters.



# PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Sponsorship for a sports event; make it an “auto theft/fraud prevention” night;

A certain investment would include your message on the billboard during a game and a spot with table to share info and promotional materials.

This could be at LSU basketball/football games, Saints games, Southern Football, etc.



# INCREASED MEDIA CAMPAIGN BUDGET

Increase Lock it or Lose It Ads

Increase media coverage about car burglary prevention  
(especially around holidays)









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### LOUISIANA AUTOMOBILE THEFT & INSURANCE FRAUD PREVENTION AUTHORITY

#### Board of Director's Meeting

Friday, August 12, 2022, 10:00am

1702 North Third Street, Poydras Building  
Plaza Hearing Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

#### Report on Community Outreach/ Education Programs

This report reflects community outreach and education initiatives from April 28, 2022 through August 12, 2022. Since the last board meeting with COVID-19 protocols beginning to relax, **LATIFPA** participated in six **(6)** community events. In conjunction with the Ascension Parish TRIAD event, St. Landry Parish TRIAD event, two Ascension Parish S.A.L.T Council meetings, Baton Rouge Council on Aging, and the National Night Out Against Crime event. **LATIFPA** participated in speaking, providing prevention information and meal distributions to **3870** senior citizens and other community stakeholders.

**LATIFPA** also participated in one **(1)** school event sponsored by Park Forest Elementary and Middle Parent/ Teacher event in Baton Rouge, LA. **LATIFPA** spoke to the group and provided information on auto theft and insurance fraud prevention to **200** parents and students.

**LATIFPA** reached **4070** participants and will continue outreach efforts as more events become available.

**Submitted By Kevin Smith**