

## MINUTES

### **Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)**

March 24, 2010

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Warren Byrd called the meeting of **Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)** to order at 10:04 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed. Director Denise Cassano called the roll.

## ROLL CALL

### Members Present

Mr. Warren E. Byrd, Esq., Chairman  
Treasurer John Kennedy by Jason Stagg, Designee  
Lieutenant Trevor Smith  
Mr. Larry Hinton, Esq.  
Mr. Richard Soileau  
Mr. Thomas McCormick, Esq.  
Mr. Terrance "Terry" Apple

### Members Absent

Representative A.B. Franklin  
Senator Troy Hebert  
Mr. Ryan Marine

### Staff Members Present

Ms. Denise Cassano  
Mr. Kevin Smith  
Ms. Virginia G. Benoist, Assistant Attorney General  
and Legal Counsel to the Louisiana Department of Insurance

### Staff Members Absent

Chairman Byrd declared that a quorum was present. The minutes of the December 2, 2009 board meeting were presented for review and approval. A motion was made by Mr. Jason Stagg to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Terrance Apple seconded that motion. The minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting were approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

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 gave a presentation on grants awarded and pending applications. Dr. Colin Beech with Academy Software, LLC gave a presentation on future program development under **LATIFPA** and associated grant funding.

The board members charged the **LATIFPA** staff with putting together a draft Resolution, outlining board support of the ATHENA project. If approved at the next Board meeting,

the resolution will accompany a request for an Attorney General's Opinion regarding use of public funds to pay the public for fraud hotline tips.

Chairman Byrd entertained a motion to enter into a professional contract with Academy Software, LLC, as recommended by the **LATIFPA** staff, to engage grant-writing opportunities designed to procure funding for new and existing programs implemented by **LATIFPA**. The funds would be used to combat motor vehicle insurance fraud including fraud by theft and other criminal acts. Mr. Thomas McCormick made a motion to enter into a contract with Academy Software, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the development of grant applications for FY 2009/2010. Mr. Apple seconded the motion. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Director Cassano gave a report on pending grant funding from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement for public education.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve expenditures by Director Cassano in an amount not to exceed \$9,000 for the redevelopment of the **LATIFPA** middle and high school education programs using funding from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement. Mr. Larry Hinton seconded the motion. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to allow **LATIFPA** to enter into a contract on behalf of the board with Academy Software, LLC up to and including \$9,000 for the redevelopment of the **LATIFPA** middle and high school education programs after consultation and approval by the Louisiana Department of Insurance Management and Finance Division. Mr. Hinton seconded the motion. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent. This motion superseded the motion made earlier whereas the authority voted to approve expenditures by Director Cassano in an amount not to exceed \$9,000 for the redevelopment of the **LATIFPA** middle and high school education programs using funding from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

Mr. Hinton made a motion to approve expenditures in the amount of \$189 for the purchase of a three motion subscription to "GrantStation", an online funding resource for seeking grants for use by **LATIFPA** staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Stagg. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. Charlie Peters, Special Agent with the NICB reported on the activity of the license plate readers in operation by the Baton Rouge Police Department, Lafayette Police Department, New Orleans Police Department and the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office. He also reported on the activity of the bait vehicles presently in operation with the Baton Rouge Police Department, Shreveport Police Department, New Orleans Police Department and Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Peters requested that the **LATIFPA** staff revise the Bait Vehicle Selection Application, for future bait vehicle grant applications, to include language that specifies that in order to receive a bait car and bait equipment under the **LATIFPA** bait vehicle

program, the law enforcement agency making application must guarantee that they will designate at least one specific person in its agency to operate the bait vehicle on a full-time basis in order to qualify.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve expenditures in the amount of \$359.91 to the National Insurance Crime Bureau under its Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the purchase of bait vehicle equipment for the bait vehicle placed in Calcasieu Parish. Mr. Terrance Apple seconded the motion. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve expenditures in the amount of \$754.99 to purchase a one-year maintenance agreement on the BSM bait vehicle equipment for use by the New Orleans Police Department. Mr. Apple seconded the motion. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. Hinton made a motion to give the Director of **LATIFPA**, in consultation with the Chairman of the **LATIFPA** Board of Directors, the authority to approve any and all expenditures of \$500 or less and report such expenditures back to the board for ratification at the next quarterly meeting of the **LATIFPA** Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCormick. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Assistant Director Kevin Smith gave a report on the middle and high school curriculum presentations and scheduled education events for the 2009 – 2010 school year. The report was accepted as given.

Mr. Hinton suggested that staff add a component to the **LATIFPA** education program for adult education on vehicle theft prevention and vehicle theft awareness. Mr. Hinton further suggested that staff consider using the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles as a source for distribution of any adult education or awareness materials to individuals renewing their driver's license or obtaining a new license.

There was a brief discussion on **LATIFPA**-related legislation in the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature. Director Cassano informed the **LATIFPA** Board of Directors that the Louisiana Department of Insurance would not be introducing any **LATIFPA** related legislation during the 2010 Regular Session.

There were no public comments and no announcements.

There being no further business, Chairman Byrd made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Soileau. The motion was approved and adopted by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.