

MINUTES

Louisiana Automobile and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)

April 23, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Warren E. Byrd called the meeting of the **Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)** to order at 2:10 p.m., at the Louisiana Department of Insurance, Poydras Building, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804. Director Denise Cassano called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Commissioner James Donelon by Designation (Warren Byrd)
Treasurer John Kennedy by Designation (Jason Stagg)
Lieutenant Allen Carpenter
Representative A.B Franklin by Designation (Patrice Dangerfield)
Senator Donald R. "Don" Cravins Jr. by Designation (Cheryl Horne)
Mr. Mike Boydstun
Mr. Ryan Marine
Mr. Trey Phillips
Commissioner James Donelon

Members Absent

Mr. Rodley Henry
Mr. Richard Soileau

Staff Members Present

Mrs. Denise Cassano
Mr. Kevin Smith
Ms. Alydia Washington
Ms. Virginia G. Benoist, Assistant Attorney General, Legal Counsel

Staff Members Absent

Chairman Byrd declared that a quorum was present. The minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting and the minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were presented for review and approval. Ms. Cheryl Horne made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting as presented. Lieutenant Allen Carpenter seconded that motion. Mr. Jason Stagg made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting as presented. Mr. Mike Boydstun seconded that motion. The minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting and the January 9, 2008 minutes were approved and adopted by unanimous consent.

Chairman Byrd called for a nomination and election of a Vice-Chairman of the **LATIFPA** Board to replace Mr. Clement Story. Lieutenant Carpenter made a motion to

elect Mr. Larry Hinton. Mr. Boydston seconded that motion. Mr. Hinton was elected as Vice-Chairman for the Board by unanimous consent. Chairman Byrd also called for a nomination and election of a Secretary of the **LATIFPA** Board to replace Mr. Hinton. Chairman Byrd made a motion to elect Mr. Stagg. Lieutenant Carpenter seconded that motion. Mr. Stagg was elected as Secretary for the Board by unanimous consent.

Director Cassano gave a report on the fundraising efforts, other donations, contributions, and expenditures of the **LATIFPA**. The report was accepted as given. Assistant Director Kevin Smith stated that actual report indicates expenditures totaling \$4,000 dollars for the purchase of chrome wheels and tires for the Shreveport and Bossier City bait vehicles instead of \$3,000 dollars as stated by Director Cassano in her oral report to the board. The correction was accepted as given.

Lieutenant Carpenter reported on the meeting of the Steering Committee on Equipment Purchases held on April 2, 2008. He reported that this committee had three recommendations to the Board. The first recommendation called for a vote by the Board to place the first license plate reader, under the **LATIFPA** License Plate Reader Program, to the Baton Rouge Police Department. In conjunction with this recommendation he advised the Board that Louisiana State Police is purchasing a new license plate reader and that they would donate their existing license plate reader, that had been paid for and provided by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), to the second qualifying law enforcement agency under this program contingent upon final approval by the NICB to make the transfer. The second recommendation was that the Board delay any further expansion of the bait vehicle program (Vehicle Investigation Prevention Enforcement Response (VIPER) Program) and use the available fund in the **LATIFPA** fund account, and any appropriated funds, for the purpose of developing programs that address insurance fraud statewide. The third recommendation was a request for Board approval to purchase a chrome wheel and tire package for both the Shreveport and Bossier City bait vehicles. Lieutenant Carpenter then made a motion to award the first license plate reader to the Baton Rouge Police Department. That motion was seconded by Ms. Horne and adopted by unanimous consent. Lieutenant Carpenter made a second motion to fund the purchase of wheels and tires for the Shreveport and Bossier City bait vehicles. Mr. Ryan Marine seconded that motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Director Cassano introduced two programs, for addressing insurance fraud, under consideration by the staff. The first program would be implemented through the use of a statewide radio advertising campaign that would inform and educate the public about insurance fraud. The second program was "The Give Up" program, which consists of developing and distributing training videos to law enforcement agencies and special investigative units for use in the investigation of fraudulent auto theft claims. Mr. Boydston recommended that consideration be given to statutorily setting up a clearinghouse on property and casualty claims for use in detecting multiple claim submissions by single parties. Lieutenant Carpenter stated that the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) operates a claims data base that presently tracks all claims paid.

Chairman Byrd asked the Board to approve expenditures in the amount of \$1,143.56, for the purchase of a laptop computer for the Orion equipped bait vehicle in Shreveport, Louisiana, payable to the National Insurance Crime Bureau under its Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. This additional laptop was being purchased so that the new Orion equipped bait vehicle in Shreveport would have a laptop and so that the previously purchased laptop could transfer with the first bait vehicle used by Shreveport that was equipped with BSM equipment. Ms. Horne made a motion to approve the expenditures for the laptop computer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patrice Dangerfield. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Assistant Director Smith gave a report on the development and use of a **LATIFPA** logo. He stated that the cost of the logo would be \$300.00. He further stated that a Letter of Agreement between the graphics designer and **LATIFPA** has been drafted by Ms. Virginia Benoist that gives **LATIFPA** all use and rights to the logo. Mr. Ryan Marine suggested that we use a color design that enhances the authority name in the logo. Lieutenant Carpenter made a motion to adopt the new logo for use by the **LATIFPA**. Mr. Stagg seconded that motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. Charlie Peters, representative of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, reported on the deployment 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. The report was accepted as given.

Commissioner James J. Donelon welcomed the new members of the **LATIFPA** Board and expressed his appreciation to the members on the programs that had been implemented by **LATIFPA** to deter and reduce auto theft and insurance fraud. Commissioner Donelon suggested that we take strides in making New Orleans a viable candidate to receive future grant awards and assistance through **LATIFPA**.

Assistant Director Smith reported on the presentations that have been made in the middle schools under its Public Awareness Program. Mr. Smith stated that, to date, the middle school curriculum had been presented in eight different public schools and to five 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 4,704 students and juvenile detainees. Mr. Smith also made the Board aware of some of the difficulties the authority has had in trying to make these presentations to the various public middle schools and associated organizations. The report was accepted as given.

Ms. Alydia Washington reported on the presentations that have been made in the high schools under its Public Awareness Program. Ms. Washington stated that, to date, the high school curriculum had been presented in four different public high schools. At the time of reporting, Ms. Washington stated that the curriculum has been presented to 1,160 students. Ms. Washington also made the Board aware of these schools expressed interest in the potential for discounts on auto insurance premiums for participating students in driver education programs. The report was accepted as given.

There was no further business being offered by any member. There were no public comments. Ms. Dangerfield made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stagg seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.