**MINUTES**

**Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority**

**(LATIFPA)**

June 13, 2012

Poydras Building

1702 North Third Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Warren Byrd called the meeting of the **Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance** **Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)** to order at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed. Director Denise Cassano called the roll.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present Members Absent

Warren E. Byrd, Esq., Chairman Mr. Ryan Marine

Executive Counsel Regions Insurance

Louisiana Department of Insurance

Mr. Larry Hinton, Esq. Mr. Willard Hamilton

General Counsel Internal Auditor

GEICO Companies Louisiana Department of the Treasury

Mr. Thomas McCormick, Esq.

Department of Justice, State of Louisiana

Lieutenant Trevor J. Smith, Supervisor

Insurance Fraud & Auto Theft Unit

Louisiana State Police

Mr. Richard J. Hagey

SIU Manager, SCLA

Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Company

Honorable Dan Morrish

By Mr. Don “Tuffy” Resweber, Designee

Honorable Mike Huval, State Representative

House Committee on Insurance

Mr. Terrance “Terry” Apple

Insurance Fraud Investigator

Department of Justice, State of Louisiana

Staff Members Present Staff Members Absent

Ms. Denise Cassano, Director

Ms. Virginia G. Benoist, Assistant Attorney General

and Legal Counsel to the Louisiana Department of Insurance

Mr. Kevin Smith, Assistant Director

Mr. Paul Boudreaux, Jr., Esq., Director

Fraud Section

**There were two attendees from the public at this meeting.**

Chairman Byrd declared that a quorum was present. **Prior to action on each agenda item for which a vote was taken, there was a public comment period as required under La.R.S. 42:14(D).**

The minutes of the March 14, 2012 board meeting were presented for review and approval. A motion was made by Mr. Terrance Apple to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Don Resweber seconded the motion. Prior to a vote Chairman Byrd opened the floor for any public comment, but there was none. The minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

Director Cassano reported on **LATIFPA** income, expenditures and donations. The report was accepted as given.

Mr. Larry Hinton made a motion to approve expenditures not to exceed $495.00 for the purchase of 700 rubber jar openers in FY 2011/2012 for distribution in the senior citizen park smart education program. Mr. Apple seconded the motion. Prior to a vote Chairman Byrd opened the floor for any public comment, but there was none. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Lieutenant Trevor Smith gave a report on the June 7, 2012 meeting of the Steering Committee on Equipment Purchases. Mr. Tom McCormick made a motion to allow the New Orleans Police Department the use of the 2004 vehicle, donated by Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Company to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), under a **LATIFPA/**NICB pilot program pursuant to the NICB Use Agreement. Mr. McCormick further stated in his motion that the use of this vehicle by the New Orleans Police Department be contingent upon their providing and installing, within a reasonable period of time, the equipment necessary to use the vehicle as a bait vehicle. Mr. Resweber seconded the motion. Prior to a vote Chairman Byrd opened the floor for any public comment, but there was none. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Resweber made a motion to place the 4-wheeler, donated by Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Company, under the **LATIFPA**/NICB bait vehicle program as an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) demonstration project. Mr. Resweber further stated in his motion that the 4-wheeler be granted to the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office for use as a bait vehicle, subject to the grantee agreeing to acquire and install surveillance equipment in the vehicle within 90 days. Mr. Apple seconded the motion. Prior to a vote Chairman Byrd opened the floor for any public comment, but there was none. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to remove the Remington Elsag from the **LATIFPA**/NICB License Plate Reader Program and use is it as a $5,000 trade in, as offered by LaTech at the June 7, 2012 meeting of the Steering Committee on Equipment Purchases, towards the purchase of a new PIPS License Plate Reader in FY 2012/2013. Mr. Hinton seconded the motion. Prior to a vote Chairman Byrd opened the floor for any public comment, but there was none. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Allen Applewhite, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) gave a report on the **LATIFPA**/NICB License Plate Recognition and VIPER programs. The report was accepted as given.

Assistant Director Kevin Smith gave a report on the middle and high school curriculum presentations and other educational events conducted by **LATIFPA**. The report was accepted as given.

Mr. Paul Boudreaux, Director, Insurance Fraud Section, Louisiana Department of Insurance, gave a report on the 2012 fraud legislation passed during the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The report was accepted as given.

Ms. Virginia Benoist, Legal Counsel for **LATIFPA,** announced that she would be officially retiring from state government on June 29, 2012. The Board publically acknowledged Ms. Benoist for the exemplary legal advice she has provided to **LATIFPA** since 2007.

Director Cassano reminded the board members about the mandatory ethics training required for 2012 by all public servants under R.S. 42:1170. Written notice was distributed to all of the **LATIFPA** board members on April 18, 2012.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.