

1. POLICE UPDATE

5th district Lieutenant Commander LeJon Roberts began the meeting with the following updates: a total of 7 new recruits have been added, with 3 being new graduated, now a total of 83 officers. Related that there were no trending patterns, two shootings last night are considered to be random acts of violence. Two cases, 2400 St Roch (domestic) and Hunter's Field (narcotics) are clearing soon.

The case of the burned car (Villere & Independence) is still under investigation. Lack of information re: resolution of cases back to the neighborhood was noted by attendees.

Roberts related that property crime is the biggest problem currently, with a slight increase in auto thefts/burglaries, and while they have leads there is also an expectation that with the holiday season there will be an increase.

Coordination with pawn shops, as well as the importance of centralized property camera information in pursuing leads in these kinds of cases was stressed. Discussion of property cameras followed - registration of camera with the police department may be done by calling 658-6050. Safecamnola.com and projectnola.com can also be helpful for acquiring cameras and registering them. Police are able to use pass codes to check recordings remotely - or they will come to your home to review.

When reporting someone you know to be wanted for a crime, call 911. That will get you a code 2 (current 11 minutes response time, goal is 7). A code 1 is non-life threatening. Contact info: Commander Young (fmyoung@nola.gov) and Lieutenant Commander LeJon Roberts (lroberts@nola.gov).

2. STRs

Julie Jones reminded everyone that the vote on Short Term Rentals is coming up soon (probably at the December 1 Council meeting although it could be postponed) and that there is a lot of politicking behind the scenes related to provisions in the coming ordinance. Nothing prevents Councilmembers from changing their position on the provisions. She urged members to contact all Councilmembers.

3. SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD

Joe Becker from Sewerage and Water Board spoke about the recent organizational history of the department and how the current support of the millage is needed. Without ongoing support of what is already in place, all aspects of the system, from drainage to pump repair to an increase in insurance rates, will be affected. It is 4.4, which—factoring in the homestead exemption—will be about \$12 for the first \$100,000 in a home's value, but will go up to about \$88 per \$100,000 in a house's value after that. This will be a renewal. NOT a new tax. The election will be held December 10th.

Mr. Becker announced that in the last two weeks a new computer system had been installed in Customer Accounts (the previous system was ancient) and new people hired for Customer Accounts. He explained the S&WB has a power system that is separate from, and more reliable than, Entergy. 75% of their power is S&WB, 25% is from Entergy. When Entergy breaks down, a certain amount of water sits, becoming less potable. He expects this situation to change.

New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board will send someone to test the amount of lead in the water inside your house and will assist in remediation of same if you request it. This is free.

4. MORE ON LEAD AND NEW ORLEANS WATER

Adrienne Katner, an LSU School of Public Health Faculty Member who focuses on environmental health research on lead and water, made a presentation. Maps were distributed that show extremely high levels of lead in Bywater soil. Rusted and corroded pipes are also culprits in these very high lead levels. She also distributed recommendations for a faucet mount filter or an under-the-sink mount filter which remove up to 99% of lead and will clean the water at the closest point of consumption. For recommendations, see NSF.org. Also HBBF.org provides extremely cheap water tests. Some people run water to clear lines. 5 minutes is considered the minimum here, but even that can kick up some lead, so

it's less than optimal.

Some insurance will cover blood tests, with more detailed information on how exposure to high levels of lead can physically affect people. No level of lead exposure is considered safe. Although children are the most vulnerable, people of any age can be affected. Dizziness, hearing problems, constipation, high blood pressure are the classic symptoms. The half life of lead in the bones is about 20 years. Exposure in early life can have an impact on later life.

Although Dr. Katner disagrees in some ways with the S&WB, she still urges people to vote YES on the millage.

5. Brian Luckett shared that Howard Mielke, who has surveyed soil lead contamination in New Orleans, has proposed an amendment to the Master Plan (the amendment process will continue into 2017) to address the problem of lead in our soil. The LSU Agricultural Center will test your soil for lead. If it's high, you should not plant root vegetables directly into Bywater soil -use pots or raised beds, or skim off the top 6 inches and replace with safe soil. Fruit trees are ok.

6. Our next meeting will be first Wednesday in December - 12/7/16 at Stallings. 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Thacker, Co-Secretary
Julie Jones, President