

Dixieland Neighborhood Association (DNA) Meeting on June 21st, 2016

Location: 730 S. Florida ave. 12 Members were present along with 3 LPD officers and Jim Studiale and Brian R. representing the city of Lakeland.

Meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Angie Ellis, from the LPD gave an update on crime in the neighborhood, which included 1 stolen car, 9 suspicious incidents, 9 vehicle burglaries, and 1 residential burglary. You may contact Angie with any questions at 863-834-6900.

DNA members agreed to have National Night Out at Dobbins Park without closing Ariana Street.

Jim Studiale and Brian R. from the city of Lakeland reported on the proposed rental registration ordinance. They reported that over 6 communities in South Florida have implemented similar rental registrations successfully. The ordinance would facilitate contact with absentee Landlords who incur 68% of all Code Enforcement fines. It also intends to reduce negligent landlords with poor housing stocks. Code enforcement has found that rentals of absentee landlords have more violent crimes. In addition, 70% of all code cases involve non-owner occupied rentals.

Rentals would have an exterior inspection by code enforcement every 3 years. Interior inspections would only occur if a crime, a complaint from a tenant, or more than 3 code violations or 2 noise violations have been reported in a 12 month period. Registration would include the name, address, email, and phone number of all landlords. Landlords who have more than 6 violations in a 12 month period or 9 in a 24 month period could have their rental permit revoked. Starting October 2018, fees would also be incurred depending on the number of code violations.

DNA members asked several questions regarding the Rental Registration Ordinance, including what members could do to help the ordinance pass. Jim Studiale reiterated how important it was for the community to let city commissioners aware of their support for the ordinance.

The meeting ended at 7:30 pm.