

Dixieland Neighborhood Association (DNA) Meeting on February 21st, 2017

Location: 730 S. Florida ave. 20 Members were present along with 3 LPD officers, and LPD Chief Larry Giddens.

Meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Angie Ellis presented a brief summary of criminal activity in our neighborhood which included 4 residential burglaries, 7 suspicious incidents, and 14 suspicious persons.

Barbara presented a quick summary of the DNA finances.

Mary Smith introduced LPD Chief Larry Giddens. Larry has been an officer in the LPD since he was 20. He has seen an increase of homeless people with substance abuse. In his opinion, the Florida weather attracts the homeless especially in the winter months. Keeping that in mind, he urges the public to keep their guns locked. He also reminded residents that LPD has a safe in their lobby for people to dispose of excess medications. In case of an emergency, the LPD lobby has a police person staffing it 24/7. The Chief was proud that the Lakeland homicide rate has been cut in half since 2014 from 8 to 4 murders. Since 2014, LPD has resolved 100% of their homicide cases. Violent crime has decreased by 25% since 2014. LPD has reduced the number of crimes in the city since 2014 by reaching out to the community, not being an occupying force, and by reinstating community policing. He also reminded drivers to share the road as we have had 9 to 10 residents killed every year by vehicles.

The LPD Chief informed that larceny to motor vehicles is the only crime that has increased since 2014. In 2016, 4030 cars were burglarized. He emphasized the importance of keeping your vehicle locked at all times.

The meeting ended at 7:35 PM.