

LOUISIANA
AUTOMOBILE THEFT
AND INSURANCE
FRAUD
PREVENTION
AUTHORITY
(LATIFPA)



Report to the Legislature
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

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INSURANCE FRAUD
PREVENTION AUTHORITY
(LATIFPA)



REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE
JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023



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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
TIMOTHY J. TEMPLE
COMMISSIONER

March 1, 2024

Honorable Members of the Louisiana Legislature:

The Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority ("LATIFPA") welcomes this opportunity to report its activities for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 pursuant to La. R.S. 22:2135, a copy of which is attached.

LATIFPA, in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, works to deter automobile theft and insurance fraud. LATIFPA's efforts include the use of license plate recognition systems, increased public education and awareness, and multi-agency cooperation.

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, LATIFPA's License Plate Recognition ("LPR") Program resulted in 71 adult arrests, recovery of 10 stolen license plates, and 55 stolen vehicles worth an estimated value of \$632,992. Education and Outreach Programs were presented to 2,972 students and to 15,408 adult individuals in civic and professional organizations throughout the state. LATIFPA's strategic marketing campaign utilized digital, radio, and television advertising to increase public education and consumer awareness on methods of preventing automobile theft and combating insurance fraud.

LATIFPA is committed to the execution of meaningful programs and strategies in furtherance of its mission to reduce automobile theft and insurance fraud for the benefit of the citizens of Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

Nathan Strebeck
LATIFPA Chairman

NS:cs
attachment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Legislative Background.....	1
Purpose.....	1
Mission Statement.....	2
Problem Assessment.....	2
Vehicle Theft.....	2
Catalytic Converter Theft	5
Insurance Fraud	6
Initiatives	7
License Plate Recognition Program	7
Education and Outreach	7
Public Awareness and Educational Campaign	8
Meetings	9
Collections	13
Expenditures	14
Board of Directors.....	15
Staff.....	15
Acknowledgements	16

Louisiana Automobile Theft & Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority

Annual Report to the Legislature 2022-2023

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

La. R.S. 22:2131 *et seq.* establishes the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA). La. R.S. 22:2134 establishes an Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Fund within LATIFPA. This fund is the mechanism used to collect and disburse funds for the purpose of reducing motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

LATIFPA is governed by an 11-member board of directors, consisting of the following:

- » The Commissioner of Insurance or his designee.
- » The State Treasurer or his designee.
- » A representative of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit.
- » The chairman of the Senate Committee on Insurance or his designee.
- » The chairman of the House Committee on Insurance or his designee.
- » Two members, appointed by the Attorney General, representing law enforcement officials in this state.
- » One member, appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance, representing motor vehicle insurers doing business in this state.
- » One member, appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance, representing purchasers of motor vehicle insurance.
- » One member, appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance, representing insurance adjusters.
- » One member, appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance, representing public adjusters.

PURPOSE

LATIFPA is a public agency whose purpose is to combat insurance fraud, including fraud by theft and other criminal acts. In carrying out its purpose, LATIFPA may:

- » Solicit and accept gifts, grants, donations, loans and other assistance from any person or entity, private or public.
- » Establish programs in conjunction with other state agencies, local governing authorities and law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention, detection and enforcement.
- » Make grants to state agencies, local governing authorities and law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention, detection and enforcement.

- » Enter into cooperative endeavors with any public or private association, corporation or individual with similar obligations and purposes as long as all expenditures are for a public purpose and create a public benefit proportionate to the cost.

MISSION STATEMENT

To deter and reduce vehicle theft and insurance fraud through a statewide cooperative effort of generating funds to support law enforcement, public awareness, community involvement and education initiatives.

PROBLEM ASSESSMENT

VEHICLE THEFT

The nature of automobile theft has changed drastically in recent years. Criminals increasingly steal vehicles to facilitate other crimes and constantly change their tactics in attempts to evade law enforcement.

A relatively new tactic used by auto thieves is vehicle cloning. In a scheme that could be described as identity theft for automobiles, the criminal copies a legitimate vehicle identification number (VIN) from an unsuspecting vehicle owner and creates counterfeit VIN tags. The criminal then steals a vehicle similar to the one the VIN was copied from and sells the vehicle to a third party that is unaware of the fraud being perpetrated.

Auto burglary has become more prevalent than traditional auto theft. A criminal might be interested in stealing a vehicle but discovers a vehicle door unlocked and valuable property inside and chooses to take the property. While the criminal doesn't get away with as much value, this is much quicker and easier to turn into cash.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), Louisiana ranked 14th in the nation for auto thefts with 13,638 auto thefts in 2022. This was an increase from 13,010 in 2021.

Additionally, out of 390 metropolitan statistical areas, the New Orleans/Metairie MSA ranked 33rd with 5,783 auto thefts in 2022, and the Baton Rouge MSA ranked 107th with 2,574 auto thefts in 2022.

According to an analysis conducted by the NICB, "while vehicle theft rates have been soaring since the start of the pandemic, recovery rates have also risen. More than 85% of passenger vehicles reported stolen in 2022 were subsequently recovered by law enforcement or other means, with 34% recovered within a day of the vehicle being reported stolen."

The three most frequently stolen vehicles in **Louisiana** in 2022 were the 2018 Ford Pickup (full size), the 2006 Chevrolet Full Size Pickup Truck and the 2018 Honda Accord.

Most Frequently Stolen Vehicles in Louisiana in 2022

Louisiana				
	1	Ford Pickup (Full Size)	2018	726
	2	Chevrolet Pickup (Full Size)	2006	542
	3	Honda Accord	2018	386
	4	Nissan Altima	2015	329
	5	Hyundai Elantra	2017	319
	6	Toyota Camry	2021	293
	7	GMC Pickup (Full Size)	2006	256
	8	Hyundai Sonata	2013	252
	9	Kia Motors Corporation Optima	2015	227
	10	Dodge Pickup (Full Size)	2001	182

Source: NICB <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/new-report-shows-full-size-trucks-have-highest-theft-rate>

According to NICB, the three most frequently stolen vehicles **nationally** in 2022 were the 2004 Chevrolet Full Size Pickup Truck, the 2006 Ford Full Size Pickup, the and the 2000 Honda Civic.

2022 Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicles Nationally

Rank	Vehicle Make/Model	2022 Total Thefts	Model Year Most Often Stolen
1.	Chevrolet Pickup (Full Size)	49,903	2004
2.	Ford Pickup (Full Size)	48,175	2006
3.	Honda Civic	27,113	2000
4.	Honda Accord	27,089	1997
5.	Hyundai Sonata	21,707	2013
6.	Hyundai Elantra	19,602	2017
7.	Kia Optima	18,221	2015
8.	Toyota Camry	17,094	2021
9.	GMC Pickup (Full Size)	16,622	2005
10.	Honda CR-V	13,832	2001

Source: NICB <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/new-report-shows-full-size-trucks-have-highest-theft-rate>

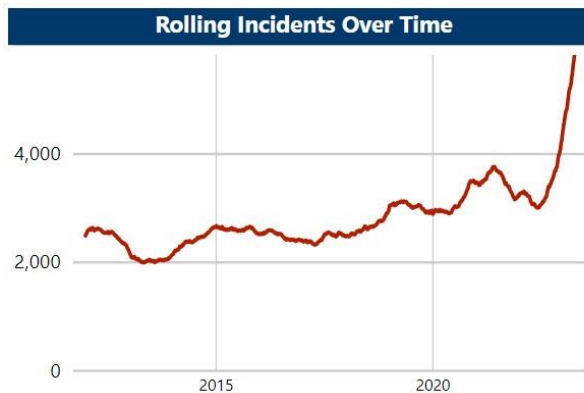
According to the FBI's Crime Data Explorer, in **2022**, there were **8,128 motor vehicle theft incidents**, and **8,128 offenses** reported in Louisiana by **148 law enforcement agencies** that submitted National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data and covers **74%** of the total population. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

Crime Dashboard - Annual Totals

Data through April 12, 2023

Months
All

Incidents Per Year													
Crime Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aggravated Assault	510	551	521	629	631	708	848	954	897	1,177	1,399	1,208	274
Auto Theft	2,476	2,215	2,130	2,641	2,510	2,403	2,470	2,971	2,926	3,467	3,222	4,338	2,366
Burglary	3,845	3,457	3,253	3,530	2,940	2,607	2,243	2,103	2,177	1,967	2,165	1,806	518
Carjacking	65	60	53	98	169	152	119	105	103	233	281	273	53
Homicide Incident (Firearm)	175	170	128	136	143	156	132	122	113	164	193	240	63
Homicide Incident (Non-Firearm)	20	18	18	13	12	17	18	15	11	21	19	17	2
Non-Fatal Shooting	285	290	235	296	247	334	330	239	260	432	478	487	141
Rape/Sexual Assault	212	168	217	279	497	800	830	786	794	708	808	725	243
Robbery (Armed)	588	534	553	726	763	670	531	488	375	364	332	495	129
Robbery (Unarmed)	431	455	538	549	466	476	453	422	372	307	390	328	57
Stabbing	212	226	206	226	224	238	214	236	212	233	198	209	49
Theft	4,672	5,534	6,587	7,211	7,142	7,344	8,331	7,710	8,314	6,420	4,877	4,784	1,334
Vehicle Burglary	2,787	2,523	2,362	2,927	2,439	2,873	3,159	4,054	6,553	5,337	5,047	5,849	1,450
Total	16,278	16,201	16,801	19,261	18,183	18,778	19,678	20,205	23,107	20,830	19,409	20,759	6,679



YTD Change			
Crime Type	Current YTD	Last YTD	YTD % Change
Aggravated Assault	274	349	-21.5%
Auto Theft	2,366	909	160.3%
Burglary	518	442	17.2%
Carjacking	53	114	-53.5%
Homicide Incident (Firearm)	63	66	-4.5%
Homicide Incident (Non-Firearm)	2	7	-71.4%
Non-Fatal Shooting	141	136	3.7%
Rape/Sexual Assault	243	231	5.2%
Robbery (Armed)	129	133	-3.0%
Robbery (Unarmed)	57	105	-45.7%
Stabbing	49	59	-16.9%
Theft	1,334	1,506	-11.4%
Vehicle Burglary	1,450	1,834	-20.9%

Source: New Orleans City Business "Report: New Orleans ranked among most expensive US cities to own a car" April 11, 2023

2022 Vehicle Theft Data Key Takeaways

- Vehicle thefts increased 7% in 2022.
- Popular full size pickups continue to top the list, with the popular Chevrolet (#1) and Ford (#2) trucks leading the way.
- Both the Hyundai Sonata (#5) and Hyundai Elantra (#6) are new to the top 10 list.
- If reported as stolen in the first 24 hours, passenger vehicles had a 34% same-day recovery rate in 2022.



CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

In response to national, state and local law enforcement and community concerns, LATIFPA introduced a demonstration initiative to assist in the reduction of catalytic converter thefts in Louisiana. The catalytic converters contain precious metals, including palladium, which make them a desirable target for thieves. The goal is to implement catalytic converter identification kit programs administered by law enforcement agencies, retail muffler shops and repair shops. Consumers are encouraged to install anti-theft devices and park in secure, lighted areas whenever possible.

A report from the National Insurance Crime Bureau reveals a sharp increase in catalytic converter thefts nationwide, with over 64,000 thefts reported in 2022. California and Texas topped the list with over 32,000 thefts each. More information on this report can be found at <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/catalytic-converter-thefts-surge-nationwide-according-new-report>

The thefts have significant consequences for vehicle owners, including financial losses and disruptions to daily life. Legislative efforts are also underway nationally, with numerous bills introduced to address the issue and increase penalties for offenders.

In the 2022 Louisiana Legislative Session, a new law went into effect in Louisiana ([La. R.S. 14:67.12](#)) which makes it illegal to steal a catalytic converter or engine control module from a vehicle. Also, the [legislature](#) created [La. R.S. 37:1864\(A\)\(3\)](#) which requires that any business that purchases catalytic converters or engine control modules as a single item shall register with the police.

INSURANCE FRAUD

It is estimated that insurance fraud is responsible for as much as 10% to 15 % of the insurance industry’s annual losses. Insurance fraud is a contributing factor in Louisiana’s position as one of the most expensive states for automobile premiums. In its [2021 Auto Insurance Database Average Premium Supplement Report](#) published in September 2023, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) found that the average annual Louisiana automobile combined premium of \$ 1,684.63 in 2021 was the highest in the nation. The national average was \$1,189.42.

NAIC’s full report can be found here: https://content.naic.org/sites/default/files/adps-21_0.pdf

2021 Auto Insurance Database Report Supplement

STATE	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Alabama	1,087.33	1,079.86	1,064.34	1,071.38	1,015.73
Alaska	1,122.48	1,112.74	1,141.81	1,111.08	1,073.42
Arizona	1,200.75	1,168.14	1,201.08	1,183.89	1,128.72
Arkansas	1,089.22	1,078.79	1,068.95	1,067.84	1,040.44
California	1,212.75	1,216.43	1,219.43	1,189.88	1,116.80
Colorado	1,348.07	1,329.92	1,338.84	1,290.63	1,197.55
Connecticut	1,342.02	1,328.67	1,349.73	1,326.63	1,276.46
Delaware	1,351.19	1,346.87	1,387.16	1,391.84	1,324.96
District of Columbia	1,559.63	1,542.00	1,582.85	1,573.99	1,468.82
Florida	1,520.67	1,455.73	1,506.11	1,521.61	1,441.48
Georgia	1,434.79	1,423.39	1,436.55	1,387.63	1,292.86
Hawaii	928.47	920.01	955.50	944.54	918.74
Idaho	848.26	832.94	849.71	828.28	781.21
Illinois	1,000.98	996.18	1,018.50	997.42	979.00
Indiana	858.32	859.52	878.16	868.44	844.46
Iowa	841.55	822.17	823.53	816.11	795.77
Kansas	990.46	968.45	999.76	986.75	949.77
Kentucky	1,040.19	1,051.48	1,066.30	1,101.05	1,056.65
Louisiana	1,684.63	1,683.32	1,763.87	1,755.08	1,643.57
Maine	794.93	789.46	788.04	784.17	765.77
Maryland	1,305.61	1,310.50	1,348.11	1,327.25	1,267.93
Massachusetts	1,235.35	1,248.44	1,261.84	1,246.08	1,215.18
Michigan	1,418.13	1,535.66	1,622.75	1,575.49	1,497.43
Minnesota	986.28	972.91	991.33	972.40	940.17
Mississippi	1,172.87	1,148.50	1,160.84	1,153.33	1,108.57
Missouri	1,063.43	1,041.81	1,073.65	1,055.80	1,005.85
Montana	1,034.91	1,031.40	1,039.97	1,025.48	975.17
Nebraska	982.83	956.66	974.13	963.31	936.06
Nevada	1,381.43	1,365.05	1,419.65	1,387.58	1,261.31
New Hampshire	880.86	879.28	899.12	883.56	862.42
New Jersey	1,473.99	1,440.33	1,504.97	1,493.96	1,465.46
New Mexico	1,072.96	1,088.32	1,122.73	1,102.29	1,051.67
New York	1,632.83	1,556.32	1,577.48	1,559.27	1,486.31
North Carolina	909.81	880.36	888.86	876.74	825.95
North Dakota	822.87	843.16	861.32	845.81	814.18
Ohio	852.04	861.27	890.41	888.16	871.16
Oklahoma	1,094.54	1,085.76	1,117.75	1,127.04	1,104.31
Oregon	1,024.73	1,030.07	1,077.93	1,077.20	1,045.20
Pennsylvania	1,068.38	1,075.42	1,106.29	1,103.41	1,069.97
Rhode Island	1,587.37	1,552.69	1,560.70	1,517.02	1,467.22
South Carolina	1,267.01	1,242.33	1,248.82	1,230.72	1,149.68
South Dakota	958.41	924.14	932.68	906.65	877.02
Tennessee	1,001.11	986.46	1,004.15	998.03	960.02
Texas	1,343.03	1,302.63	1,370.28	1,372.52	1,296.08
Utah	1,047.34	1,028.38	1,051.23	1,038.39	985.63
Vermont	846.06	852.56	859.35	856.26	844.56
Virginia	960.52	943.92	966.99	958.17	921.95
Washington	1,110.16	1,115.80	1,154.97	1,120.23	1,078.52
West Virginia	1,064.64	1,064.14	1,096.10	1,096.83	1,072.91
Wisconsin	823.84	816.23	840.82	830.19	805.85
Wyoming	998.63	977.49	985.35	971.07	938.51
Countrywide	1,189.42	1,175.61	1,205.74	1,191.56	1,136.95

INITIATIVES

LATIFPA issues grants to law enforcement agencies across the state under its bait vehicle and license plate recognition programs. These grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies to promote more efficient and effective law enforcement activities in vehicle theft investigations and enforcement.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, LATIFPA's education initiative included visiting schools and other civic organizations. Presentations to civic and professional organizations focus on insurance fraud and automobile theft prevention. The school-based programs emphasize the consequences of automobile theft and methods to prevent becoming a victim.

During this reporting period, LATIFPA continued its collaborative efforts with the National Insurance Crime Bureau and law enforcement authorities to combat insurance fraud and auto theft through our License Plate Recognition Program and general education and outreach efforts.

LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The License Plate Recognition program is implemented through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Under the License Plate Recognition program, grant awards of license plate recognition systems are made to Louisiana law enforcement agencies selected by application.

LATIFPA's law enforcement initiatives assist agencies with grant funding to increase efficiency in their vehicle theft and burglary prevention activities. LATIFPA has granted License Plate Readers (LPRs) to 23 state, parish, city and university police departments statewide. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the LATIFPA LPR program produced 23,643,750 combined plate scans, combined vehicle recovery values of \$321,122 and combined arrests of 31 suspects. LATIFPA continues to receive strong and positive results from law enforcement agencies in response to the LPR program.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

LATIFPA presents an educational program to schools and members of civic, business and professional organizations. The program educates them about the consequences of auto theft and insurance fraud and offers tips to avoid being victims of vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The program is offered at no cost to organizations.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, LATIFPA's public awareness events and outreach initiatives returned to pre-pandemic levels. LATIFPA participated in 43 community/senior events as a speaker and/or exhibitor providing information on automobile theft and insurance fraud to 15,408 attendees. LATIFPA also participated in two abbreviated school events in the state impacting 27 high schools and engaging 2,972 students, teachers, and parents, providing information on automobile theft, insurance fraud prevention and guides on auto insurance for teens and young adults.

LATIFPA Related Activities: Three-Year History

	<i>Fiscal Year 2022-2023</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2021-2022</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2020-2021</i>
License Plate Recognition Program			
Reads	53,691,539	64,215,700	10,930,376
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	55	88	2
Stolen License Plates Recovered	10	11	2
Adult Arrests	71	119	
Value of Recoveries	\$632,992	\$1,009,642	\$418,500
<i>Source: NICB Quarterly Reports</i>			
Education Program			
School Awareness Program	2,972	3,665	1,170*
Community Awareness Program	15,408	15,720	1,580*
TOTAL ATTENDEES	18,380	19,385	3,750*

***NOTE: Due to COVID-19 many school and public events were canceled or rescheduled between March 2020 thru April 2021.**

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Over the next year, LATIFPA will prioritize public awareness campaigns to emphasize auto burglaries, catalytic converter theft, contractor fraud and disaster preparedness. The authority will expand the License Plate Recognition program with updated LPR wireless solar cameras using cloud-based storage and identify new technology to assist law enforcement in reducing and solving automobile theft and insurance fraud-related crimes. According to the FBI, non-health related fraud alone totals over \$40 billion annually. The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud has estimated that in 2023, fraud has impacted the American public to the sum of \$300 billion dollars.

MEETINGS

The LATIFPA Board of Directors conducted three public meetings during this fiscal year: August 12, 2022, November 9, 2022, January 25, 2023, and May 23, 2023.

AUGUST 12, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Warren Byrd called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approval of April 28, 2022 Minutes: Rep. Mike Huval moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting. Mr. Thomas Jeter seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

Chairman Byrd introduced Mr. Chris Styron with the Attorney General's office as the newest member of the LATIFPA Board of Directors.

Budget Report (attached): Ms. Crystal Stutes reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year updated as of July 27, 2022. Once projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$201,638.95 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$25,361.05 carrying over into the next fiscal year. This would leave us with \$191,930.34 in the "cash carryover account" (\$393,569.29 in FY21/22 actual collections minus the \$201,638.95 expenditures) for the next fiscal year.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Mr. Kevin Smith gave an update on the installation and operation of various cameras in operation under our grants. He advised that State Police and the LDI were still awaiting final review of several new cameras that were being tested for use as LPRs.

Mr. Smith stated that we hope to have Lt. Wilkerson and Sgt. Jonathan Kemp at the next meeting to talk to the board about the new LPRs being reviewed.

Mr. Allen Applewhite then gave the NICB report on the statistics submitted by the LPR grantees.

Marketing and External Affairs – School/Community Events Update: Mr. Smith provided an update on LATIFPA community events.

Next Ms. Stutes presented a power point outlining new ideas for investment of LATIFPA funds. The board discussed the idea of increasing the media budget in order to increase anti-fraud ads around the holidays. Mr. John Ford, Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs elaborated on what marketing campaigns may work best regarding time and placement.

The next LATIFPA meeting will be announced later but is expected to be held in November. There being no other business, Ms. Natalie Brunson-Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Barry Milligan seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 9, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Nathan Strebeck called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approval of August 12, 2022 Minutes: Mr. Thomas Jeter moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2022 meeting. Ms. Natalie Brunson-Wheeler seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

Ms. Stutes then gave a brief introduction of our new board member and chairman, Mr. Nathan Strebeck, who is the Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Insurance Fraud at the Louisiana Department of Insurance.

Budget Report (attached): Ms. Crystal Stutes reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year updated as of Nov. 3, 2022. Once projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$221,960 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$5,040. This would leave us with \$157,143.34 in the “cash carryover account” for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Stutes suggested increasing the media budget from \$60,000 to \$70,000 to increase awareness through television and radio ads about the dangers of theft and fraud during the holiday season. The members agreed. After some discussion, Representative Huval moved to increase the media budget to \$70,000. Ms. Free seconded the motion. A vote was taken and with all in favor and no objection, the motion passed and the new media budget will be \$70,000.

New Grant Applications – The board then heard from three applicants for license plate recognition systems.

The first applicant was the Evangeline Parish Sheriff’s Office. After their presentation, Rep. Huval moved to approve the application and Mr. Mulligan seconded. The grant application was approved with no opposition.

The second applicant was the St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office. After Major Lance Guidroz’s presentation, Rep. Huval moved to approve the application and Ms. Free seconded. The grant application was approved with no opposition.

The third applicant was the Jeanerette Marshall’s Office. After Chief Deputy Walter Kimball’s presentation, Rep. Huval moved to approve the application and Ms. Wheeler seconded. The grant application was approved with no opposition.

The fourth applicant, the Bienville Parish Sheriff’s Office, was unable to attend so their application was not reviewed.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Mr. Kevin Smith gave an update on the installation and operation of various cameras in operation under our grants. He advised that State Police and the LDI were still awaiting final review of several new cameras being tested for use as LPRs.

Mr. Smith then welcomed Sgt. Jonathan Kemp with the Louisiana State Police, who gave an update on their review of license plate recognition cameras. He reported that a decision had not yet been made.

Mr. Allen Applewhite then gave the NICB report on the statistics submitted by the LPR grantees.

Marketing and External Affairs – School/Community Events Update: Mr. Smith provided an update on LATIFPA community events (see attached).

The next LATIFPA meeting will be announced later but is expected to be held in January.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

JANUARY 25, 2023 MEETING

Chairman Nathan Strebeck called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of November 9, 2022 Minutes: Mr. Thomas Jeter moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 9, 2022 meeting. Mr. David Marcantel seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

Budget Report (attached): Ms. Crystal Stutes reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year updated as of Nov. 3, 2022. Once projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$221,960 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$5,040. This would leave us with \$157,143.34 in the “cash carryover account” for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Stutes reported on the media campaign that ran at the end of last year. Between Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans and Shreveport, there was an average of 62% reach from television and cable ads. In Baton Rouge and New Orleans, there was an average of 12% reach from radio ads.

New Grant Applications – The board then heard from the Bienville Parish Sheriff’s Office as an applicant for a license plate recognition system. After the applicant’s presentation, Mr. Jeter moved to approve the application and Mr. Marcantel seconded. The grant application was approved with no opposition.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Mr. Kevin Smith gave an update on the installation and operation of various cameras in operation under our grants.

Mr. Allen Applewhite then gave the NICB report on the statistics submitted by the LPR grantees.

Ms. Renee Free discussed the need to improve the reporting from the grantees. Staff advised they would look into the issue and report at plan to address it at the next meeting.

Marketing and External Affairs – School/Community Events Update: Mr. Smith provided an update on LATIFPA community events in which he participated or presented (see attached).

The next LATIFPA meeting will be announced later but is expected to be held in January.

There being no other business, Mr. Marcantel moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Jeter. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

MAY 23, 2023 MEETING

Chairman, Nathan Strebeck called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approval of January 25, 2023, Minutes: Mr. Tommy Jeter moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 25, 2023 meeting. Mr. David Marcantel seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

Budget Report (attached): Ms. Crystal Stutes reviewed the financial status of the Authority as of Jan. 24, 2023, highlighting budget authority and expenditures, collections, and summary for the FY 22/23.

New LATIFPA LPR Grant Applications: The Board reviewed grant applications and interviewed representatives for the Oakdale Police Department, the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office, the Eunice Police Department and the Gonzales Police Department.

Upon completion, the board moved to approve applicants by issuing motions as follows:

Lt. Michael Wilkerson moved to approve the Oakdale Police Department. Mr. David Marcantel seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the motion was approved without objection.

Mr. Barry Milligan moved to approve the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office. Lt. Michael Wilkerson seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the motion was approved without objection.

Mr. David Marcantel moved to approve the Eunice Police Department. Lt. Michael Wilkerson seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the motion was approved without objection.

Lt. Michael Wilkerson moved to approve the Gonzales Police Department. Mr. Barry Milligan seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the motion was approved without objection.

Update on Current LATIFPA LPR Installations and Operations: Assistant Director, Kevin Smith reported on updates on new LPR vendors currently being used to replace the outdated LPR camera system. The report included detailed accounting of each agency's status in the grant process from approval, ordering, installation and complete operation. Recommendations were submitted to the board for consideration in the removal of agencies that are non-compliant or have requested to voluntarily leave the program.

Ms. Stutes addressed whether an agency could reapply for grant consideration if they are removed or voluntarily withdraws from the program. Ms. Stutes also reviewed draft correspondence for non-compliance with monthly reporting requirements and draft award letters for new grantees.

Lt. Wilkerson asked if the board should send a letter outlining reporting requirements to all new grantees immediately upon approval and include having them sign in agreement to comply. Ms. Free agreed with the idea.

Chairman Nathan Strebeck suggested standard operational procedures for replacement of aging and outdated cameras.

NICB Report: Allen Applewhite provided additional information on the New Orleans Police Department LPR usage and reviewed the NICB LPR agency reporting stats.

LATIFPA Community Outreach Update: Assistant Director Smith submitted the community outreach and education program report from Jan. 26, 2023, through May 23, 2023.

The next Tentative Meeting Date - July 19, 2023.

Ms. Free offered a motion for adjournment. Mr. Marcantel seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

COLLECTIONS

Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:2134, the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Fund was established as a depository for all revenues received. All monies in this fund are used only to enhance insurance fraud and vehicle theft prevention efforts as determined by the Board of Directors.

All revenue derived from solicitations, grants or donations from any person or entity, private or public, or federal, state or local governments is deposited upon receipt into the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Fund. All interest earned on money from the fund through investments by the state treasurer is credited to the fund.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2022-2023, there was a statutory dedicated fund balance of \$191,930.34. In accordance with La. R.S. 40:1428, \$187,000 in revenue was deposited in the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Fund established by La. R.S. 22:2134. The interest on investments totaled \$528. Total funds for this period were \$379,458.34.

EXPENDITURES

*Expenditures from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, from the fund totaled (\$201,638.95). The ending fund balance for this period was \$170,153.35. At the beginning of the reporting period, there was a balance of \$372,911.41 under the General Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between LATIFPA and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. All LATIFPA's administrative expenses are funded with self-generated funds of the LDI.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

Mr. Nathan Strebeck, Esq.

Deputy Commissioner, Office of Insurance Fraud
Louisiana Department of Insurance
(Designated as Chairman by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Hon. Mike Huval

Louisiana State Representative
(Appointed by the Chairman of the House Committee on Insurance)

Ms. Renee Free

Department of the Treasury
(Designee of the Treasurer)

Lieutenant Michael Wilkerson

Louisiana State Police
(Representative of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit)

Hon. Kirk Talbot

Louisiana State Senate
(Appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Insurance)

Mr. Barry Milligan

Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice
(Appointed by the Attorney General)

Natalie Brunson-Wheeler

State Farm Insurance Group
(Appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Mr. David Marcantel

Vice President, Claims, Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance
(Appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Mr. David Clements

Clements Insurance Services
(Appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Mr. Thomas Jeter

Tyner Jeter Insurance Agency, L.L.C.
(Appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Mr. Lonnie Christopher Styron

Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice
(Appointed by the Attorney General)

STAFF

Ms. Crystal Stutes

Director
Louisiana Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority
Department of Insurance

Mr. Kevin Smith

Assistant Director
Louisiana Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority
Department of Insurance

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA) acknowledges the following companies and organizations for their support:

Coalition Against Insurance Fraud

International Association of Auto Theft Investigators

Louisiana Attorney General

Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit

National Insurance Crime Bureau

Louisiana State Treasurer

Louisiana House and Senate Insurance Committees



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