

LOUISIANA
AUTOMOBILE THEFT
AND INSURANCE
FRAUD PREVENTION
AUTHORITY
(LATIFPA)



Report to the Legislature
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

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**LOUISIANA
AUTOMOBILE THEFT AND
INSURANCE FRAUD
PREVENTION AUTHORITY
(LATIFPA)**



**REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE
2021 - 2022**



THIS REPORT WAS PRODUCED BY:
LOUISIANA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AND INSURANCE FRAUD
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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
JAMES J. DONELON
COMMISSIONER

April 26, 2023

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, 2021 through June 30, 2022 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 and has demonstrated great success in its efforts to do so. LATIFPA's efforts include the use of license plate recognition systems, increased public education and awareness, and multi-agency cooperation.

During the 2021/2022 fiscal year, LATIFPA's License Plate Recognition ("LPR") Program resulted in 119 adult arrests, recovery of 11 stolen license plates, and 88 stolen vehicles worth a value of \$1,009,642. Education and Outreach Programs were presented to 3,665 students and to 15,720 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. Finally, LATIFPA granted the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office ("EBRSO") funds to purchase catalytic converter "tags", which can be etched with a number and registered into a database, to reduce catalytic converter theft.

LATIFPA will continue to develop and implement meaningful programs and strategies in furtherance of its commitment 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

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Louisiana Automobile Theft & Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority

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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.
- » Two members, appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance, representing motor vehicle insurers doing business in this state.
- » Two members, appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance, representing purchasers of motor vehicle insurance.

PURPOSE

LATIFPA is a public agency whose purpose is to combat motor vehicle 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 discover a vehicle door unlocked and valuable property inside and choose 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.

The three most frequently stolen vehicles in Louisiana in 2021 were the 2003 Ford Pickup (full size), the 2015 Chevrolet Full Size Pickup Truck and the 2017 Honda Accord.

According to the FBI's Crime Data Explorer, Louisiana had an average of 246 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 people. For a full breakdown of state-by-state averages, visit <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

New Orleans car thefts are among the fastest growing crimes according to the New Orleans City Business News. They report that the rate of car thefts in New Orleans has skyrocketed in recent years, increasing by about 35% in 2022 compared to 2021. (See below)

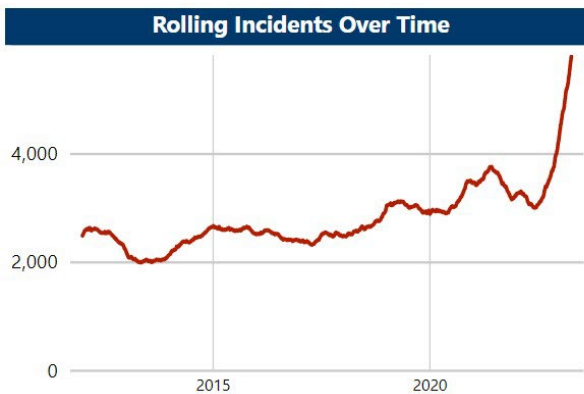
Crime Dashboard - Annual Totals

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

According to the City Council of New Orleans, there were 4,338 auto thefts reported.

More information can be found here:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNjIhMjVlYzUtYTl0ZS00MmQxLWI3MDgtM2JkNTQ0NjZiZGM2IiwidCI6IjFkYzNiZmNmLTVMVMTQ0tNGRkNS1iMjE3LWE3NTBjNWlxMzlyZCIsImMiOiN9>

More data on frequently stolen vehicles and auto theft hotspots can be found here:

<https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/nicb-releases-annual-hot-wheels-report-americas-top-ten-most-stolen-vehicles>

Stolen Vehicles Report from January to November 2022



Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) through data obtained from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), over 1,000,000 vehicles have been stolen nationwide in 2022, marking a 7% increase over 2021.

Full report: <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/vehicle-thefts-nationwide-surpass-one-million-first-time-2008>

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Louisiana, as well as the nation, has witnessed a dramatic increase in catalytic converter thefts, which started around the time of the pandemic. The catalytic converters contain precious metals, including palladium, which make them a desirable target for thieves.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) 3,389 nationwide threats were reported in 2019, with that number increasing dramatically to 14,433 in 2021.

East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office (EBRPSO) and the Baton Rouge City Police have increased efforts to reduce catalytic converter thefts in Baton Rouge. Additionally, LATIFPA granted the EBRPSO funds to purchase catalytic converter "tags" which can be etched with a number and registered into a database. EBRPSO is currently reviewing those options to determine the most feasible method of distribution and installation.

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

Estimates are that insurance fraud is responsible for as much as ten to fifteen percent of the insurance industry's annual losses. Insurance fraud has been a contributing factor in Louisiana's position as one of the most expensive states for automobile premiums. In its 2019/2020 Auto Insurance Database Report published in January 2023, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) found that the average annual Louisiana automobile combined premium of \$ 1,684.86 in 2020 was the highest in the nation. The national average was \$1,176.92.

NAIC's full report can be found here: <https://content.naic.org/sites/default/files/publication-aut-pb-auto-insurance-database.pdf>

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 2021-2022, LATIFPA's education initiative included visiting schools and community outreach. This school-based program emphasizes the consequences of automobile theft and methods to prevent becoming a victim. Presentations to civic and professional organizations focus on insurance fraud and automobile theft prevention. LATIFPA greatly reduced its community engagement efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic for safety reasons.

LATIFPA also conducted a public awareness campaign that focused on car burglary via radio spots in the New Orleans area.

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, VIPER 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.

During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, license plate readers were operational in 21 police and sheriff jurisdictions across the state including 6 public universities. The use of license plate readers in these parishes resulted in 64,215,700 reads, 119 total arrests, the recovery of 99 stolen vehicles, stolen license plates and a recovery valued of \$1,009,642.00.

Expenditures for the License Plate Recognition Program in FY 2021-2022 were \$139,046.31.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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

LATIFPA Related Activities: Three-Year History

	<i>Fiscal Year 2021-2022</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2020-2021</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2019-2020</i>
License Plate Recognition Program			
Reads	64,215,700	10,930,376	13,744,161
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	88	2	126
Stolen License Plates Recovered	11	2	41
Adult Arrests	119		171
Value of Recoveries	\$1,009,642	\$418,500	\$1,254,355
Education Program			
School Awareness Program	3,665	1,170*	4,565
Community Awareness Program	15,720	1,580*	24,245
TOTAL ATTENDEES	19,385	3,750*	28,810

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

During fiscal year 2021-2022, the educational curriculum was presented to 3,665 middle and high school students. The vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention presentations were made to 15,720 individuals in various civic, business and professional organizations. LATIFPA encourages groups to request this program through its presence as an exhibitor at expos, fairs and conferences.

Since the inception of this program, outreach on vehicle theft prevention and insurance fraud prevention has been delivered to over 100,000 individuals.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

LATIFPA conducted educational and public awareness campaigns designed to inform the citizens of the state about methods of preventing motor vehicle theft and combating insurance fraud through the use of radio advertisements as well as through the distribution of informational brochures. The purposes of this campaign were to stimulate public awareness about the economic, social and public safety consequences of vehicle theft, encourage public participation in theft prevention and enforcement efforts, and encourage the use of fraud hotlines to report suspected vehicle theft and suspicious insurance fraud activity.

MEETINGS

The LATIFPA Board of Directors conducted three public meetings during this fiscal year: July 21, 2021, October 14, 2021, February 9, 2022 and April 28, 2022.

JULY 21, 2021 MEETING

Approval of April 2021 Minutes: Mr. Thomas Jeter moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021, meeting. Mr. Marcantel seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

Overview of NICB Data Reporting Process: Chairman Byrd asked Mr. Alan Applewhite to provide an overview of the NICB LPR data reporting process. Mr. Applewhite gave an overview of the process and emphasized the report is only as good as the data law enforcement agencies provide.

Review of Partner LPR Issues: Mr. Kevin Smith stated that BRPD is having LPR program personnel issues. Mr. Smith also provided an update regarding several LPR participants who were previously having issues: ULL, ULM, LSU, Kenner, NSU, and SELU have been addressed, and LATIFPA should begin receiving stats from those LPRs. Ms. Renee Free asked how they were contacted, and Mr. John Ford stated they were all contacted by email and followed up with by phone.

LATIFPA Grant Applications – EBRSO Catalytic Converter Tags: LATIFPA received three project grant requests to be presented at this meeting. Walker Police Department submitted a request for an LPR, and East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office submitted one request for an LPR and a separate request for catalytic converter tags.

Mr. Smith introduced an idea for a partnership between LATIFPA and EBRSO for an event to provide catalytic converter tags to EBRSO as a joint pilot program aimed at addressing the recent spike in catalytic converter theft. Lt. Chad Jones of the EBRSO was present to present both of applications. Lt. Jones stated that in 2020, EBRSO conducted 42 investigations involving catalytic converter thefts, and that in the first six months of 2021 they conducted investigations on 61 thefts including instances ranging from one vehicle to an entire fleet.

Lt. Jones said that the biggest obstacle law enforcement faces with catalytic converter theft is that the parts do not have serial numbers, so it can be hard to tell whether a converter that is found matches one previously stolen. The lack of a serial number also makes it easier to sell them for

scrap. Lt. Jones also said that the idea with the catalytic converter tags is to do a pilot program on 150 vehicles to see if the tags deter theft or aid in recovery if stolen. Chairman Byrd asked for clarification about whether the tags are permanent, and Lt. Jones confirmed they permanently etch a number into the metal and that they are a visual deterrent.

Mr. Applewhite said NICB is involved with this sort of program across the country and asked whether the kits had been priced yet and for the thought process behind 150 tags being the requested number. Mr. Smith explained that the request was for a single initial pilot event, then explained the process of applying converter tags, and briefly mentioned a public relations push around the launch of this event. Chairman Byrd asked what makes a catalytic converter valuable, and Mr. Smith stated there are several valuable precious metals in a catalytic converter.

Chairman Byrd asked Lt. Jones whether it would be more effective to do a pilot program with a large lot of cars instead of individual cars since they seem to be more attractive targets. Lt. Jones said the idea was to do it at the EBRSO shop and make it available to the general public. Lt. Wilkerson asked whether the lots hit are in certain areas or are random, and Lt. Jones confirmed that it is random.

Chairman Byrd stated that the application is for 150 tags at a cost of about \$1,300 and asked whether 300 tags would be more useful. Lt. Jones said 300 would give them a larger set of test vehicles for the pilot and that EBRSO could install 300 tags. Mr. David Marcantel agreed that 300 tags would be better. Mr. Applewhite recommended ensuring the catalytic converter tags have a derivative VIN, year model, assembly plant, and production number. Ms. Free emphasized the importance of meeting national standards so that our program is compatible with other states across the country. Lt. Wilkerson confirmed that including at least the eight last numbers in the VIN should be enough. Mr. Marcantel moved to double the application amount from 150 to 300 and approve the application. Lt. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LATIFPA Grant Applications – EBRSO LPR: Lt. Jones then presented EBRSO’s second application for a fixed LPR and talked about EBRSO’s history of LPR use, including their ability to maintain and report the data required. Mr. Marcantel moved to approve the application. Mr. Milligan seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

LATIFPA Grant Applications – Walker PD LPR: Walker PD was not in attendance at this meeting, and Mr. Milligan requested to table the application until the next meeting. Mr. Milligan moved to table the application. Mr. Jeter seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Report: Mr. Ford reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the end of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Mr. Ford stated that since the previous meeting, LATIFPA spent \$1,043.29 on a “Don’t Be a Victim” handout for events and \$31,850 for the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office LPR that was approved earlier in the year. Mr. Ford stated that those items are pending payment and awaiting invoice from the vendors, and that once paid, LATIFPA will have spent \$207,750.97 of its \$227,000 budget authority for the year, which leaves LATIFPA with \$19,249.03 in unspent spending authority funding but no rollover into the next fiscal year. Mr. Ford stated that LATIFPA is starting the 2021-2021 Fiscal Year with the \$187,000 annual statutory dedication proceeds plus \$173,419.98 in the carryover account for a total of \$360,419.98.

Budget Report – LATIFPA Printing Project Approval: LATIFPA purchased 10,000 fliers for \$1,043 since the previous meeting. Mr. Ford requested approval for that expenditure. Mr. Jeter moved to approve the expenditure. Lt. Wilkerson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Budget Report – Preauthorization of Operational Purchases Under \$5,000: Mr. Ford stated that in previous years, the board has preauthorized up to \$5,000 in operation spending for the year and asked for the board to approve that for the current fiscal year. Mr. Marcantel moved to preauthorize up to \$5,000 in operational spending. Mr. Milligan seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Marketing and External Affairs – LATIFPA Ad Campaign Proposal: Mr. Ford requested that that board discuss approving up to \$60,000 for marketing funding for the fiscal year with the plan of doing an initial spend of \$30,000 focusing on auto theft and auto burglary. Mr. Ford stated that the second \$30,000 would be used later in the year for more ads or to promote the catalytic converter event. Chairman Byrd asked that we look at incorporating a billboard ad that shows how much of each family unit's unit is going toward fraud as that has been very effective in the past. Lt. Wilkerson stated that he remembers that billboard campaign and that it was effective.

Ms. Free asked whether LATIFPA would need to develop the ads or if we'd piggyback off national campaigns. Mr. Ford said LATIFPA has existing ads that can be reused, but that LATIFPA is also looking into piggybacking off an existing national campaign. Mr. Smith stated that IAATI is the organization doing the national auto theft campaign. Ms. Free asked whether the second \$30,000 would be spent prior to the next board meeting, and Mr. Ford clarified that the reason for approving the second \$30,000 now is in case LATIFPA needs to publicize the EBRSO catalytic converter event prior to the next board meeting. Ms. Free moved to approve up to \$60,000 in marketing funding for the fiscal year. Mr. Marcantel seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Marketing and External Affairs – Hide Lock Take Project: Mr. Ford stated he was contacted by a New Orleans resident concerned about a high instance of auto break-ins in his neighborhood. The resident suggested working with a company called Hide Lock Take to place signs in his neighborhood that would help remind residents of car safety practices. Mr. Ford stated that he is looking into how Texas funds a similar program through sponsorships.

The resident, Jason Stevens, submitted a letter to the board, and Mr. Ford read excerpts from the letter, which provided an overview of the problem, information on Hide Lock Take, and a request for \$2,000 to place 120 signs in the neighborhood. Mr. Ford stated that he was told it would take between 500 and 650 signs to cover the entire city of New Orleans, which would cost \$8,000 to \$10,000. Several members of the board noted that it would be important to make sure these signs were not limited to one specific neighborhood and that LATIFPA considers placing them across the city of New Orleans and the entire state. Mr. Milligan asked how the signs are typically placed.

Mr. Ford stated that in other programs across the country, there is a partnership with the local police department to have the signs installed by the police or the city. Chairman Board stated that it may be a good idea to have the New Orleans Police Department come before the board to act as the official partner for the program. Ms. Free asked how we can make sure the signs are correctly

installed. Mr. Smith stated that we could track their installation date the same way we track LPR installation dates and mentioned the opportunity to ask for funding from foundations.

Chairman Byrd asked staff to contact police in areas with at least 50,000 residents to determine the interest level and to contact all the carriers in the state to determine whether they are interested in sponsoring the program.

Marketing and External Affairs – LPR Supply and Payment Procedure Improvements: Mr. Smith reviewed the plan he created and shared with NICB to help speed up the process of paying for and reimbursing the cost of LPRs. NICB had been paying for the units upfront instead of waiting until the project was complete, which meant LATIFPA could not reimburse NICB for months following their initial payment. Mr. Smith shared a process with all parties involved that will significantly shorten the amount of time between NICB's payment to the LPR vendor and LATIFPA's reimbursement to NICB. Mr. Smith also discussed conversations he's having with the LPR vendor that may result in their agreement to hold LPR trailers and cameras in stock prior to purchase, which should greatly reduce shipping and project times moving forward.

Marketing and External Affairs – School/Community Events Update: Mr. Smith provided an update on LATIFPA events. Because schools are still in COVID protocol, the only event LATIFPA recently participated in was a drive-by event for seniors that involved 380 seniors, and that LATIFPA had another senior event planned for the following week.

NICB Report and LPR Project Updates: Mr. Smith reported that Houma's LPR is operational, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office repairs are done, St. Bernard Parish's project is underway, and Plaquemine will be fully operational within the next few days. Chairman Byrd reviewed the NICB report and confirmed the status of a few of the LPRs that are now up and running. Mr. Applewhite stated that we have not received any information from NOPD since they were hit with a virus a year and a half ago, and that the unit is older and may be passed its life expectancy. Chairman Byrd asked for LATIFPA staff to contact NOPD and BRPD to request that the unit be put in use or returned to LATIFPA.

There being no other business, Ms. Free moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Marcantel seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

OCTOBER 14, 2021 MEETING

Approval of July 2021 Minutes: Mr. Tommy Jeter moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021, meeting. Ms. Renee Free seconded the motion. After allowing for public comment, of which there was none, the minutes were approved without objection.

Director Introduction - Chairman Byrd introduced Crystal Stutes who is the new LATIFPA Director. Ms. Stutes has been with the Department of Insurance for nearly 32 years and is the immediate past Director of the Louisiana Health Care Commission at the LDI.

LATIFPA Grant Applications - LATIFPA received two grant requests from Baker Police Department and Walker Police Department to be presented at this meeting. Baker Police

Department requested a stationary LPR and Walker Police Department submitted a request for a mobile LPR. Following a presentation by each, Mr. Jeter moved to approve the grant for the Baker Police Department. Ms. Natalie Brunson-Wheeler seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed and the Baker Police Department's grant was approved. Senator Kirk Talbot then moved to approve the Walker Police Department's grant application. Mr. Barry Milligan seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed and the Walker Police Department's grant was approved.

Budget Report (attached): Mr. John Ford reviewed the LATIFPA Budget Plan for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year updated as of 10/12/21. Mr. Ford stated that since the previous meeting, LATIFPA has spent \$16,175 on radio spots and \$14,000 on tv spots. (All approved previously at the July 2021 meeting). LATIFPA also spent \$31,850 for the Plaquemines Parish LPR and \$1,126.31 on the Lafayette Parish repair of one of their LPR. Finally, LA TIFP A spent \$130 on an assessment of a State Police LPR.

Mr. Ford discussed the "Projected Expenditures" section as explained that the TBD amount of nearly \$30,000 under Advertising is being allocated to a few more anti-theft ads as well as to publicize the EBRSO catalytic converter event which we hope to do in the new year.

Furthermore, LA TIFP A has two approved / projects that are currently in progress, which are the St. Bernard Parish and EBR Parish LPRs. Mr. Ford stated that we also have the Catalytic Converter Tags project which is still in progress and will cost \$2,672.

So once the paid and projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$216,638.31 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$10,361.69 carrying over to the next fiscal year. This would leave us with \$176,773.98 in the "cash carryover account (\$393,412.29 in FY21/22 actual collections minus the \$216,638.31 expenditures) for the next fiscal year.

Marketing and External Affairs - LATIFPA Ad Campaigns: Mr. Ford briefly reviewed statistics from TV and radio spots that were approved by the board at a previous meeting (attached).

Marketing and External Affairs - Hide Lock Take Project: Mr. Ford gave an update on Hide Lock Take project which was an endeavor to place signs in a neighborhood that would help remind residents of car safety practices. A resident from New Orleans had expressed an interest in getting a grant to cover this. LATIFPA is requesting a grant from State Farm Foundation for approximately \$2,000 to place 120 signs in the neighborhood. Mr. Ford stated that due to the way LATIFPA has to apply for the grant through the LDI, it is taking a bit of time as we needed to request some information from the IRS that the vendor needed. We will also need to work with the New Orleans Police Department to determine who will be responsible for installing the signs.

Marketing and External Affairs- Catalytic Converter Tags: Mr. Kevin Smith reviewed the plans to sponsor a Catalytic Converter Tag event to distribute tags to consumers and have them installed on their cars. LA TIFPA did receive the tags and staff will meet with EBRSO soon to plan an event.

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

LPR Project Updates-LPR Partner Letter: It was discussed that LATIFPA was experiencing a lack of reporting from the participating LPR grantees. It is critical to receive this information to have some type of performance measures in place to justify the granting of the LPRs. As such, Chairman Byrd discussed a letter that he and the LA TIFP A staff drafted that we would submit to the LPR grantees reminding them of the importance of submitting timely information and statistics to justify keeping the equipment. (A final letter is attached.) After changes were made, it was agreed that the letter should be disseminated among the LPR grantees.

LPR Project Updates -LaTech LPR Pilot Project: Mr. Kevin Smith discussed a new camera that LaTech is developing that would be less expensive to produce. The EBR Sheriff's Office will be the group to try the new camera to see if it is something we would like to use in the future.

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

It was announced that the LOI Conference 2022 would be held March 7 and 8, 2022.

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

There being no other business, Chairman Byrd moved to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

FEBRUARY 9, 2022 MEETING

Approval of October 14, 2021 Minutes: Rep. Mike Huval moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2021, meeting. Mr. Barry Milligan 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 2021-2022 Fiscal Year updated as of 02/07/22. Ms. Stutes stated that since the previous meeting, LATIFPA has spent \$16,175 on radio spots and \$14,000 on tv spots. (All approved previously at the July 2021 meeting). LATIFPA also spent \$10,390 for the East Baton Rouge Parish LPR. Finally, LATIFPA spent \$2,672 on East Baton Rouge Catalytic Converter Tags.

Ms. Stutes discussed the "Projected Expenditures" section as explained that the TBD amount of nearly \$30,000 under Advertising is being allocated to the EBRSO catalytic converter event.

Once the paid and projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$201,719.45 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$25,280.55 carrying over into the next fiscal year. This would leave us with \$191,716.84 in the "cash carryover account" (\$393,436.29 in FY21/22 actual collections minus the \$201,710.45 expenditures) for the next fiscal year.

LATIFPA Grant Applications - LATIFPA received two grant requests for LPRs from Many Police Department and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office to be presented at this meeting. Following a presentation by each, Rep. Mike Huval moved to approve the grant for the Many Police Department. Lt. Michael Wilkerson seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed and the Many Police Department's grant was approved. Mr. Thomas Jeter then moved to approve the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office grant application. Mr. David Marcantel seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed and the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office grant was approved.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Mr. Kevin Smith discussed that installations of EBR Sheriffs Office, Baker Police Department, and Walker Police Department were still in process. Mr. Smith stated that he did reach out to LaTech who advised that the delay was due to equipment not arriving in a timely matter because of COVID. St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office installations have been completed.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - LPR Partner Letter: Chairman Byrd informed the members that the LPR Partner Letter was sent to the LPR grantees explaining to them that it was critical that they provide the requested data as part of the grant obligation.

Mr. Smith stated that several grantees advised him that their lack of reporting was due to server issues with LSP. Mr. Smith advised that he met with Lt. Wilkerson and the LSP IT staff to discuss these issues.

Lt. Wilkerson then gave an update regarding the efforts being made by LSP to resolve the issues. He stated that basically some agencies' technology does not integrate well with LSP technology. LSP is currently in the process of re-assessing the LPR program and looking at new vendors. LATIFPA is looking at the same vendors with the intention of utilizing the same system.

It was concluded that at this time, new grantees should work with LaTech to determine if they will need to utilize the LSP server so that efforts can be made to assure proper integration.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Existing LPR Cameras, Server Applications & Installation Contractors: Mr. Smith gave an update on the three vendors that are being considered for the new LPR system.

Mr. Allen Applewhite then gave the NICB report on the statistics submitted by the LPR grantees. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Smith would contact each agency by telephone as a follow-up to the LPR Partner Letter issued to grantees that had not submitted their data.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Issuance of New Cameras to Existing Grantees: After discussion, Mr. Jeter made a motion that existing applicants experiencing equipment problems may request to have the equipment repaired or replaced, pending available funds and board approval, without the necessity of re-applying. These requests will be reviewed by the board at each quarterly meeting. Ms. Free seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed.

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

Marketing and External Affairs – Catalytic Converter Tags: Ms. Stutes gave an update on the meeting with EBRSO regarding the Catalytic Converter Tag event to distribute tags to consumers and have them installed on their cars. Discussions are being had to host an event before the end of the fiscal year.

Marketing and External Affairs – Hide Lock Take Project: Ms. Stutes gave an update on Hide Lock Take project which was an endeavor to place signs in a neighborhood that would help remind residents of car safety practices. LATIFPA is requesting a grant from State Farm Foundation for approximately \$2,000 to place 120 signs in the neighborhood. Ms. Stutes stated that LATIFPA's application was finally accepted by Front Door and we are still working with the IRS to complete

the paperwork. Additionally, the New Orleans Police Department has a new Chief of Police and we will need to reach out to them to make sure they are on board with this project.

It was announced that the LDI Conference 2022 would be held March 7 and 8, 2022.

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

There being no other business, Chairman Byrd moved to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

APRIL 28, 2022 MEETING

Approval of February 9, 2022 Minutes: Mr. David Marcantel moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting. Mr. Thomas Jeter 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 2021-2022 Fiscal Year updated as of 04/26/22. Ms. Stutes stated that since the previous meeting, LATIFPA has spent \$31,850 on the St. Bernard Parish LPR (all approved previously at the July 2021 meeting). The other approved LPRs are pending installation before final payment is made.

Ms. Stutes discussed the “Projected Expenditures” section and explained that the \$29,825 was to be spent next month with Diane Allen & Associates for media buys to raise awareness of auto theft and the importance of locking doors. This media buy will include both television and radio spots.

Once projected expenditures are complete, we will have spent \$201,719.45 out of our \$227,000 budget authority, which leaves us with \$25,280.55 carrying over into the next fiscal year. This would leave us with \$191,726.84 in the “cash carryover account” (\$393,436.29 in FY21/22 actual collections minus the \$201,719.45 expenditures) for the next fiscal year.

LATIFPA Grant Applications – Rep. Mike Huval indicated that Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office was interested in receiving a grant application and Mr. Kevin Smith assured him he would reach out to their office and forward an application to them.

LPR Installations and Operation Updates - Mr. Kevin Smith stated that installations of both Baker Police Department and Walker Police Department were complete and in operation. He reminded the members that Lafourche Parish and the town of Many would be receiving their equipment in the new fiscal year.

Following the LPR Partner Letter that was sent to the LPR grantees explaining to them that it was critical that they provide the requested data as part of the grant obligation, Mr. Smith indicated that he was very successful in getting more data and statistics from many of the participating LPR grantees. He is still having trouble getting information from New Orleans and Lt. Michael Wilkerson stated he may be able to assist in that effort.

Mr. Smith and Lt. Wilkerson discussed the fact that both LATIFPA staff and the Louisiana State Police were looking at possible new vendors and cameras for the LPR program. They hope to have more information for the August LATIFPA board meeting and Lt. Wilkerson suggested we invite Sgt. Jonathan Kemp to talk to the board about the LPRs at this meeting.

Chairman Warren Byrd suggested asking the board to go to the Commissioner with a request to reach out to Congress asking for federal legislation to mandate tags on catalytic converters in an effort to reduce catalytic converter theft. It was the consensus that the board would wait until after the summer to see if any initiatives were taken federally through the national “auto theft month” and the issue would be revisited at the August LATIFPA meeting.

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 July or August. It was decided due to schedule conflicts for out-of-state members, there will be no more Thursday meetings.

There being no other business, Ms. Renee Free moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Jeter seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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 2021-2022, there was a statutory dedicated fund balance of \$206,396.29. In accordance with La. R.S. 40:1428, \$187,000.00 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 \$173. Total funds for this period were \$393,569.29.

EXPENDITURES

*Expenditures from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, from the fund totaled (\$201,638.95.00). The ending fund balance for this period was \$191,930.34. At the beginning of the reporting period, there was a balance of \$250,500.86 under the General Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between LATIFPA and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. All of LATIFPA’s administrative expenses are funded with self-generated funds of the LDI.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

Mr. Warren Byrd, Esq.

Deputy Commissioner, Office of Property and Casualty, LA Department of Insurance
(Designated as Chairman by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Mike Lane

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

Hon. Mike Huval

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

Mr. David Marcantel

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

Ms. Renee Free

Department of the Treasury
(Designee of the Treasurer)

Mr. David Clements

Clements Insurance Services
(Appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance)

Lieutenant Michael Wilkerson

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

Mr. Thomas Jeter

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

Hon. Kirk Talbot

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

Mr. Lonnie Christopher Styron

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

Mr. Barry Milligan

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

APPENDIX 1 – 2021 MOST STOLEN VEHICLES IN LOUISIANA

Rank	Make/Model	Year	# Thefts
1	Ford Pickup (Full Size)	2003	723
2	Chevrolet Pickup (Full Size)	2015	547
3	Honda Accord	2017	391
4	Nissan Altima	2015	353
5	Toyota Camry	2020	295
6	GMC Pickup (Full Size)	2008	230
7	Toyota Corolla	2020	193
8	Dodge Pickup (Full Size)	2005	190
9	Ram Pick-Up	2019	171
10	Honda Civic	2019	169

Source: https://www.nicb.org/sites/files/2022-07/hot%20wheels_top%2010%20by%20state.pdf

APPENDIX 2 – TOP 10 STATES BY THEFT RATE IN 2021 (PER 100,000 RESIDENTS)

Top 10 States by Theft Rate

*Theft rate is total thefts per 100,000 residents.

Rank	State	2021 Theft Rate	2020 Theft Rate
1.	Colorado	661.21	502.12
2.	Washington, D.C.	651.00	562.98
3.	California	511.05	475.24
4.	New Mexico	475.50	426.19
5.	Oregon	471.16	385.08
6.	Washington	461.91	368.46
7.	Missouri	428.13	453.63
8.	Nevada	426.75	365.84
9.	Oklahoma	359.33	371.28
10.	Texas	320.04	318.52

Source: <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/nicb-report-finds-vehicle-thefts-continue-skyrocket-many-areas-us>

APPENDIX 3 – NUMBER OF AUTO THEFTS IN LOUISIANA IN 2021 BY CITY

FBI UCR LOUISIANA AUTO-THEFT 2021			
City	# of thefts	City	# of thefts
Abbeville	29	Krotz Springs	1
Alexandria	287	Lake Charles	198
Arnaudville	0	Lutcher	0
Baker	0	Mansfield	0
Basile	0	Marion	0
Bastrop	32	Marksville	12
Baton Rouge	1,249	Monroe	192
Bernice	0	Morgan City	25
Blanchard	3	New Orleans	923
Bogalusa	40	Opelousas	72
Bossier City	259	Patterson	5
Broussard	12	Pearl River	4
Church Point	6	Plain Dealing	0
Clinton	0	Ponchatoula	16
De Ridder	9	Port Allen	4
Dixie Inn	1	Rayne	3
Erath	3	Rayville	4
Fisher	0	Ruston	43
Golden Meadow	2	Sibley	1
Gonzales	35	Slidell	53
Gramercy	5	Sulphur	59
Greenwood	6	Tallulah	7
Gretna	50	Thibodaux	25
Hammond	110	Vidalia	4
Harahan	8	Vinton	10
Heflin	0	Walker	10
Houma	76	Westlake	4
Iowa	6	West Monroe	44
Jennings	0	Westwego	21
Kenner	152	Zachary	50
TOTAL AUTO THEFTS:			4,170

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program



LOUISIANA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AND INSURANCE FRAUD PREVENTION AUTHORITY
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
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(225) 342-9468