

Village of Wellington

*12300 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, FL 33414*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

6:30 PM

Village Hall

Public Safety Committee

Mohammad Junaid Akther

Michael Arena

John Archambo

Salvatore Van Casteren

Jacqueline Hutman

Brad Johnson

Michael Weil

I Call to Order

Chair Michael Weil called the meeting to order at 6:29pm.

II Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Michael Weil led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III Roll Call

Members present: Chair Michael Weil, Vice Chair Mohammad Junaid Akther, Michael Arena, Jacqueline Hutman, John Archambo, Brad Johnson and Salvatore Van Casteren

Staff Present: Nicole Coates and Gloria Kelly

Guests: Lt. Eli Shaivitz, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and District Chief Phillip Olavarria, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

IV Opening Comments

All committee members welcomed each other and stated they are looking forward to this evening's meeting.

[PSC-201](#)

SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Michael Weil nominated Mohammad Junaid Akther for Public Safety Committee Chair. Jacqueline Hutman nominated Michael Arena.

The board opened up for discussion. Ms. Hutman and Mr. Junaid Akther gave comments.

A motion was made by Michael Weil and seconded by Brad Johnson for Mohammad Junaid Akther to be appointed for Public Safety Committee Chair. The Committee voted 6-1 for Mohammad Junaid Akther to be the new Public Safety Committee Chair.

Chair Mohammad Junaid Akther opened the nomination for Vice Chair.

Michael Arena nominated Jacqueline Hutman as Vice Chair. This nomination was seconded by John Archambo. With no other nominations, Jacqueline Hutman was selected as the Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee.

V Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by John Archambo, seconded by Michael Weil, and unanimously passed (7-0), to approve the Agenda as presented.

Mr. Johnson asked a question regarding the Top Cop / Top Firefighter awards.

Ms. Coates explained that this was an annual selection process and winners were typically selected by the Public Safety Committee at the June meeting.

She mentioned how last year's section was delayed which caused the presentation not to happen until the October Village Council Meeting.

VI Approval of Minutes

a [PSC-198](#) APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 26, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by John Archambo, seconded by Michael Weil, and unanimously passed (7-0), to approve the January 26, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

b [PSC-200](#) APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2022 JOINT MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Michael Arena, seconded by John Archambo, and unanimously passed (7-0), to approve the April 27, 2022 Joint meeting minutes.

VII Old Business

Brad Johnson asked when he should bring up a safety issue. Ms. Coates mentioned that if there is a concern, the committee can email her, so the concern or item of discussion can be placed on the agenda. She also mentioned that the item or concern could be brought up in opening comments.

Mr. Johnson stated he will bring up his item of discussion during the closing comments section.

VIII New Business

a [PSC-194](#) SELECTION OF TOP COP AND TOP FIREFIGHTER FOR 2022

Lt. Shaivitz greeted the committee and offered to answer any questions the committee may have on the Top Cop nominees. The Lt. stated they struggle with these nominations each year because there is a lot of good going on throughout District 8.

Jacqueline Hutman nominated Deputy Harold Harper.

John Archambo nominated Deputy Harold Harper.

Sal Van Casteren nominated Deputy Harold Harper.

Michael Weil nominated Agent Nick Holberton.

Brad Johnson thanked all our police and firefighters for all they do. Mr. Johnson nominated Deputy Harold Harper.

Mohammad Junaid Akther nominated Deputy Harold Harper.

Voting (6-1), Deputy Harold Harper was selected as the 2022 Top Cop.

Ms. Coates mentioned that the winners of Top Cop and Top Firefighter will be presented at the September 21, 2022 Village Council meeting.

Chief Olavarria greeted the committee. He stated that there were three nominations for the Top Firefighter award and that each nomination came from their ranks.

Mr. Arena stated he would be abstaining from voting, since he knows all three of the nominees.

Mr. Johnson nominated Captain Matt Willhite.

John Archambo nominated Shane Armstrong.

Jaqueline Hutman nominated Captain Matt Willhite.

Michael Weil nominated Shane Armstrong.

Salvatore Van Casteren nominated Shane Armstrong.

Mohammad Junad Akther nominated Shane Armstrong.

Voted (4-2) with Committee Member Michael Arena abstaining, Captain Shane Armstrong was nominated as the 2022 Top Firefighter.

IX Reports

a [PSC-193](#)

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Coates greeted those present and introduced herself to the committee. She congratulated those who were reappointed and welcomed Mr. Van Casteren to the committee. Ms. Coates stated that she is looking forward to serving the committee.

She reminded members of the upcoming committee training on July 6th.

Ms. Coates stated that the Public Safety Committee meeting schedule was changing from the 4th Wednesday to the 2nd Wednesday of the month. She also reminded members that the Village Offices would be closed on July 4th.

Ms. Coates shared that the next scheduled Public Safety meeting would take place on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 beginning at 6:30pm.

Ms. Coates went on to introduce Gloria Kelly, the Minutes Secretary for the Public Safety Committee. She shared that Ms. Kelly manages the grant programs and neighborhood watch programs at the Village as well as acts as a HOA liaison.

Ms. Coates reported that the next Neighborhood Watch seminar scheduled for July 27th would be a presentation by Animal Care & Control. The next seminar would take place on August 24th with a representative from Florida Poison Control speaking about poison and medication safety.

Ms. Coates reported that the Village had been sharing hurricane information with residents and that the wellingtonfl.gov/emergencymanagement website had been updated. She went on to provide a brief Covid-19 update,

explaining that Wellington was contracted with three providers for Covid testing sites in Wellington. Wellington was also in the beginning stages of planning a Public Safety Event with the Safety 4 Life organization on October 7th along with the Lakeside Market. She also shared information on the new GoWellington app.

b [PSC-196](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISTRICT 8
WELLINGTON REPORT

Lt. Shaivitz shared the PBSO 2021 Annual Report with the committee and reported that the Village of Wellington was ranked #8 out of 50 safest cities in Florida.

The Lt. reported on the 2021 UCR Data, noting that crimes to persons had risen from the prior year but property crimes were trending downward. While vehicle crashes had peaked in 2019 there had still been a reduction; PBSO continued to address traffic crashes and increased written and verbal warnings. Action plans had been activated over the past year including the Annual Holiday Action Plan at the Mall at Wellington Green. He also shared successes from the Village's LPR camera system.

Chair Junaid Akther asked if the vehicle burglaries are a result of people leaving cars unlocked.

The Lt. stated that unfortunately they do have many people still leaving cars unlocked or keys left in the car.

Mr. Johnson asked whether the School District had the license plate readers. Lt. Shaivitz responded that last he heard they were interested in doing something like that and had looked into the equipment.

Mr. Johnson followed up with asking if the Florida Turnpike has the license plate reader system.

Chair Junaid Akther asked about the golf cart ordinance and how it will be followed during the summer months.

Lt. Shaivitz responded that it was being monitored and people were being compliant. He stated that if they get complaints they try to address them.

Chair Junaid Akther asked whether PBSO had any coordination with the schools due to the recent school shooting in Texas. Lt. Shaivitz responded that they did assist school police during the last week of school and conducted annual active shooting trainings.

Mr. Johnson asked about fireworks and whether sparklers were legal. Lt. Shaivitz responded that Florida legislation allowed for the legal use of fireworks only three (3) days per year, on July 4th, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. At the Village's request, Representative Willhite had assisted with legislation that allowed Wellington to prohibit the use of fireworks in the Equestrian Preserve Area. PBSO typically had additional deputies patrolling during those holidays.

Mr. Van Casteren inquired about the locations and number of LPR cameras in the Village. Lt. Shaivitz responded that they were located around the perimeter of Wellington and that Wellington had access to trailers as well. Footage went to the real time crime unit.

Ms. Coates responded that there were a total of 26 license plate readers in the Village.

Mr. Van Casteren shared that the Florida turnpike and Interstate 95 have the license plate reader as well. He congratulated PBSO on the numbers in the Annual Report. He also spoke about the need for school district police which had been discussed at a previous meeting.

The Committee requested that the School District Police present at the September Public Safety Committee meeting.

c [PSC-197](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY FIRE RESCUE REPORT

Chief Olavarria shared a video of the various services provided through Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.

The Chief reported a response time of 6 minutes and 42 seconds, with an average "out" time in Wellington of under a minute. Most calls received were medical in nature, having received 1,030 during the last quarter along with 102 calls for vehicle accidents. Crews in Wellington were Mayday training whereby they train to save their own while still rescuing the residents. The Chief complimented Ms. Coates on her Emergency Management Operations.

Chair Junaid Akther inquired on the number of actual fires out of the 35 fire calls reported. The Chief responded that 5 were found to be actual fires.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to the most common injuries reported due to fireworks. Chief Olavarria responded that the most common injuries included those to the hands and he urged caution when using fireworks, noting that the best thing was to leave it to the professionals and attend the July 4th event instead.

Ms. Hutman mentioned the Move Over Law and asked if people are still moving over. Chief Olavarria said that for the most part, people know to pull over.

X **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

XI **Closing Comments**

Mr. Johnson commented on an area on Greenview Shores between the Wellington Landings Middle School and the Chevron gas station where vehicles have been parking on the grass. He inquired as to the safety of this behavior. Ms. Coates responded and advised that the PBSO non-emergency number be called in the event vehicles were observed parking in an unsafe location.

Mr. Arena thanked everyone for their hard work in putting these meetings and staff reports together. He stated this is a great place to live because the service and organizations.

Mr. Van Casteren thanked Lt. Shaivitz and Chief Olavarria for their hard work.

Mr. Weil congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Johnson congratulated the Top Cop and Top Firefighter.

Mr. Archambo wanted to echo what everyone had said and wished everyone a safe Fourth of July.

Ms. Hutman thanked the Council for the reappointments made to the Public Safety Committee and welcomed Mr. Van Casteren.

Chair Junaid Akther thanked everyone and stated it is a pleasure to work with everyone.

XII Adjournment

Mr. Juanid Akther adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm .