

**VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JUNE 22, 2016
7:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Ernie Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Ernie Zimmerman, Steven Rosenblum, Ron Herman, Jacqueline Hutman, Andrea DiFonte.

Members absent:

Mohammed Junaid Akther

PBSO:

Lt. Eli Shaivitz, Captain Rolando Silva

Fire Rescue:

Battalion Chief Michael Arena

Village Staff:

James Poag, Shelly Williams

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Introduction of Committee Members

IV. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Zimmerman nominated himself to continue as the Chair of the Committee. Mr. Kurit also nominated Mr. Zimmerman.

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Ms. Hutman nominating Mr. Zimmerman for Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Kurit, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum, nominating Ms. Hutman as Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Ms. Hutman to approve the June 22, 2016 agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Lt. Shaivitz reported that traffic had lessened with the close of the Equestrian season. PBSO staff was also preparing to present the Semi-Annual report to the Village Council. Vehicle burglaries continue to trend downward since the same reporting period last year, although local media had reported a slight uptick. Captain Silva would attend the next meeting and present the details of the Semi Annual report to the Committee.

Mr. Kurit inquired about the possibility of an uptick in teenage incidents with the close of school for the summer.

Lt. Shaivitz responded that they normally do not experience issues, as it is customary to change patrol tactics during this period. They also assigned a second JAM Deputy to focus on juvenile crime, home checks and probation.

Ms. DiFonte asked what might attribute to the decline in vehicle burglaries.

Lt. Shavitz responded that it was likely a combined effort of PBSO, the Village and Neighborhood Watch Groups, all providing information and education to residents. Crime also tended to be cyclical. PBSO also employed covert electronic surveillance tactics to assist in combating the vehicle burglaries.

Mr. Zimmerman asked about detail of a shooting that had taken place on Staghorn.

Lt. Shaivitz responded that he would research the case and provide the information to Mr. Poag for dissemination to the Committee if he was able.

Mr. Zimmerman asked about the ride along program.

Lt. Shaivitz responded that any member who wished to do a ride along could call District 8 and make the request.

B. Staff Report:

Mr. Poag provided an update on programs being undertaken by the Community Services office. The Tech Girls program was being completed. The program provided training and mentoring for

young ladies in the technology field. A second part of the program would begin in the October timeframe. An entrepreneurship program would also be starting for out of school youth ages 18 to 24 to assist them in forming and developing independent business plans. The Empowering Champions program, a college readiness program, provided college tours for students throughout the state to expose them to various colleges and experiences on the college campus. Participants would also be provided with a summer internship for a 5 week period. Students were currently placed at the Boys and Girls Club, Wellington Regional and Wellington The Magazine. Tutoring was also provided at the Community Services office during the school year from 4 to 6 p.m. daily. There were also currently 21 active neighborhood watch groups. August 6th the Village would host the annual Neighborhood Block Party at Tiger Shark Cove Park from 5 to 8 p.m. School supplies and brand new shoes would be provided to youth in need attending the block party. Backpacks would be stuffed with supplies collected from the Back to School drive. Staff would be passing out approximately 300 to 350 backpacks and over 300 pair of shoes at the Back to School event.

Mr. Kurit inquired as to whether it would be of value to have the Committee members accompany staff on the Walk and Talks.

Mr. Poag responded that it was always helpful to have members of the Committee attend and participate in the Walk and Talks with residents. It would provide members an opportunity to see firsthand the improvements being made in the communities. Mr. Poag stated that he would provide the Walk and Talk schedule to the Committee. He also explained the purpose of the Walk and Talks. Neighborhoods could also request staff conduct a walk and talk in their area.

Mr. Poag also reported on the recent helmet fitting event and the distribution of bicycles that had been provided by PBSO and refurbished by Wheels of Wellington. Approximately 50 to 55 helmets had been distributed at the helmet fitting event.

C. PBCFR

Battalion Chief Mike Arena reported on the most recent response times which remained consistent with times reported the past year. Response times were around 6 minutes 30 seconds. Hurricane season had just begun and residents were reminded to be prepared, check shutters for damage and ensure that they work properly, stock non-perishable foods regularly, keep clean water on hand, batteries. He also reminded people to be sure to hydrate while working outdoors during the hot summer months.

Ms. DiFonte had heard that Fire Rescue in Delray Beach were adding nurse practitioners onto their ambulances for assistance.

Chief Arena reported that they were looking at Mobile Integrated Healthcare and how that might be implemented in the future. Chief Arena explained the details of Mobile Integrated Healthcare.

VII. New Business

A. Selection of 2016 Top Cop and Top Firefighter

Chief Arena read the nomination letters to the Committee for EMS Captain Tracey Adams, Captain David Prill and Lieutenant Sebastian Garay. Each shift supervisor had provided a nomination. The Committee briefly discussed the nominees.

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenblum to nominate EMS Captain Tracey Adams, seconded by Mr. Herman.

A motion was made by Ms. Hutman to nominate Lieutenant Sebastian Garay, seconded by Mr. Kurit.

Mr. Zimmerman called for a vote on the nomination of EMS Captain Tracey Adams. Vote was 2 -4 not in favor of EMS Captain Tracey Adams.

Mr. Zimmerman called for a vote on the nomination of Lieutenant Sebastian Garay. Vote passed 4 -2 in favor of Lieutenant Sebastian Garay for the 2016 Top Firefighter.

Lt. Shaivitz read the two nominations for the 2016 Top Cop.

After brief discussion, Mr. Zimmerman asked for nominations. Mr. Kurit nominated Deputy Horowitz, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum.

Ms. DiFonte nominated Detective Murray, seconded by Mr. Herman.

Mr. Zimmerman called for a vote on the nomination of Deputy Horowitz. Vote tied 3-3.

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There was additional discussion on the nominations.

Mr. Zimmerman called for another vote on the nomination of Deputy Horowitz. Vote tied 3-3.

Mr. Zimmerman called for another vote on the nomination of Detective Murray. Vote tied 3-3.

There was additional discussion between the Committee, Village staff, PBSO and PBCFR.

The Committee asked Captain Silva to comment.

There was additional discussion that included whether both nominees could share the title and whether they could, in future, select both a winner and a runner up.

Mr. Poag reminded the Committee that they had been tasked with selecting one candidate each year.

After additional discussion that included looking at the years of service and years stationed in Wellington of each candidate.

Mr. Zimmerman called for another vote on the nomination of Detective Murray. Vote passed 6-0 in favor of Detective Murray as the 2016 Top Cop for Wellington.

Mr. Poag stated that the Committee would be notified regarding the Council meeting where the award presentations would be made.

Ms. Hutman asked whether all nominees could be acknowledged for their dedication and service at that time.

Mr. Kurit made a motion that all nominees be acknowledged at a Council meeting, seconded by Ms. Hutman. Motion passed unanimously.

As a comment under new business, Ms. Hutman asked that the Village look into the impacts of the additional traffic on SR80/Southern Boulevard, specifically at Wellington's ingress/egress points.

Mr. Poag responded that Mr. O'Dell could be invited to a future meeting to discuss the potential issues.

Ms. Hutman asked to have someone from Palm Beach County Animal Control to discuss dangerous dogs and how that might affect Wellington residents.

Ms. DiFonte asked about the status of regulation of golf carts in Wellington. She believed the Village Council had previously looked at the issue but no changes had been made as of yet.

Captain Silva responded that it was currently dealt with on a case by case basis. They were sensitive to the needs of the community regarding golf carts. A change in policy should go through the Village Manager.

Ms. DiFonte brought up the issue of texting while riding a horse and noted although there was no method of enforcement, perhaps there could be some education.

Mr. Poag responded that the Committee could make a recommendation to Council as well as discussing the issue with the Communications Department to provide educational material or PSA's.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Public Comments

X. Closing Comments

Mr. Herman stated that he was impressed with the nominees for Top Cop and Top Firefighter and looked forward to the next meeting.

Ms. Hutman encouraged residents to attend a Public Safety meeting and share their comments.

Ms. DiFonte thanked all of the Top Cop and Top Firefighter nominees for their service. She also spoke about PBSO's Connect Protect phone app.

Mr. Kurit thanked all of the Committee members and encouraged everyone to do the walk and talks.

Mr. Zimmerman welcomed the new members to the Committee.

Mr. Poag stated that he would advise the Committee of the date of their next meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Zimmerman called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Herman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum, and the motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Approved and Adopted:

Ernie Zimmerman, Chairperson

Date

Laura A. Aldrich, Recording Secretary

Date