

**SECURITY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 4, 2008  
MINUTES**

**Attendance**

Erasmus Reyes  
Edd Siler  
Antonio García  
José Colón  
Daniel Vasse  
Victor Nieto  
Antonio Maldonado  
Luis López  
Julio Bagué  
Agustín Cabrer

**Others Attending**

Capt. Benjamín Orengo, St. James  
Ronaldo Cintrón, Palmas Reales

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Eramo Reyes, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting were approved upon a motion by Daniel Vasse seconded by José Colón.

**III. REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS**

***A. Perimeter Surveillance System***

Project contract was signed and the project is underway. Installation of additional electrical poles will take place during the 11-22 August timeframe. Cameras are on order. Entire project should be complete by early October.

José Colón informed that the internal and perimeter system being installed in La Jolla should be completed August 22, 2008. System will be monitored at La Jolla security guard house.

## ***B. Preferred Vendors Program***

Edd Siler indicated that PDMPI inputs to this program are forthcoming. He stressed the importance of implementing this program and the need for inputs from other organizations and the Business Association.

## ***C. General Security***

In spite of a very busy summer, particularly during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the 25<sup>th</sup> of July weekends; Palmas remained relatively free of major incidents or problems. As in years past biggest problem was the inordinate number of golf carts moving around which creates a nuisance for the community. Also, graffiti signatures in several electrical switching units. However, there was no criminal activity stemming from the hype of summer activity.

## **IV. INCIDENTS REVIEW**

Contingency plans implemented for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and 25<sup>th</sup> of July weekends worked very well particularly in the Palmanova Area. Contrary to previous years less people were noted in Palmanova Plaza.

Luis López presented a comprehensive report detailing all security incidents and criminal activity within Palmas del Mar for the month of July and year-to-date. Mr. López indicated that July had been a quite month except toward the end of the month whereby five burglaries were reported in the Palmas Reales/Villa Franca area. According to the CIC these were burglaries committed by someone who lives in this area. Three prime suspects have been identified and are under surveillance by the CIC. Items stolen are mainly laptops, electronic games, ipods and jewelry.

Two altercations were reported in July. One took place at Palmanova Plaza Sugar Cube and the other was a domestic altercation in Palmas Doradas. There were twelve (12) illegal appropriations (two in residential areas and 10 in Club Cala/Hotel parking lots) and six burglaries. Three burglaries took place in Palmas Reales, two in Villa Franca and one in San Miguel. The burglary at San Miguel involved three television sets and liquor. However, this burglary was solved and perpetrators were arrested by the CIC thanks to an information tip given to the PHA Security Director. As mentioned before, the CIC is focusing on three primary suspects they believe are causing the burglaries in the Palmas Reales/ Villa Franca area. Meetings are being held with the Palmas Reales Board of Directors to address security measures and plans to deal with this particular situation.

There were four golf cart accidents and 103 fines were issued to golf carts in July. Also, 21 individuals were intervened with and six of them turned over to the Police. There were 199 alarm responses and investigations.

Coordination is being effected with the Municipal Police to enforce the Municipal Code. A Municipal Police patrol has been assigned to Palmas at night to keep an eye on certain

businesses. In particular close attention is being paid to the Shipyard bar who has been playing music on Fridays and staying open past Municipal Code closing hours. A strong letter was written by PHA to the operator of this establishment pointing out violations to the Covenants and to the Municipal Code. Also, Daniel Vasse wrote another letter.

Daniel Vasse indicated that only realtors with a sales contract should be allowed to enter properties on sale unless authorized by the property owner. This will contribute to ease the burglary problem by keeping property keys and access away from unauthorized persons. Also, Mr. Vasse pointed out that the two burglaries perpetrated in Villa Franca were done by the same person. A knife taken from the first house was found at the second home.

Mr. López also informed that a golf cart security patrol has been assigned to Palmas Reales during the day and a bicycle patrol at night. Additionally the police is patrolling the area on a regular basis.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Victor Nieto reported that there is a black car that may belong to a hotel employee that is being driven through Candeler Drive at excessive speeds at night on a regular basis. Although St. James does not have the authority to stop this vehicle an effort will be made to identify its owner so that Mr. Maldonado can address this matter with the hotel management. Mr. Nieto suggested that PHA considers raising the speed bumps in the area.

Agustín Cabrer suggested that an area next to Plaza del Mar beach easement be identified for golf cart parking. Mr. Maldonado informed that the area is being cleaned and golf cart parking signs will be installed.

Mr. Cabrer also suggested that golf-cart renting companies should identify their carts with a company sign. This will make it easy for security to identify violators with corresponding rental companies. Also, it was recommended that golf cart rules be posted in rental carts. Mr. Maldonado will address these recommendations with rental companies.

José Colón addressed the problem being faced by La Jolla with a resident from that community that is creating problems by parking vehicles in spaces that do not belong to him. A complaint has been filed.

Daniel Vasse addressed again the problem being encountered with the bar at the shipyard. In addition to staying open late at night and causing disturbing noises to neighboring communities, vehicles are parking in green areas and occupying spaces that belong to his restaurant. He suggests a meeting with the Mayor from Humacao to address this type of problem. Julio Bagué indicated that he met with the Mayor and addressed the need for a permanent presence of the Municipal Police at Palmas del Mar. Although the Mayor's reaction was favorable, personnel limitations do not permit the assignment of such

resources at this time. Nevertheless, Municipal Police patrols are patrolling at Palmas on a frequent basis particularly at night.

Ronaldo Cintrón inquired into the possibility of adding a representative of Palmas Reales to the Security Committee. Mr. Maldonado indicated that members of the Committee are appointed by the PHA President; however, he sees no problem in appointing a person such as Mr. Cintrón to the Committee.

## **VI. ADJOURN**

The Security Committee adjourned at 8:00 p.m.