

**SECURITY COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2008
MINUTES**

Attendance

Erasmus Reyes
Luis López
Julio Bagué
Antonio Maldonado
Victor Nieto
Mary Jo Espasas
Agustin Cabrer, Jr.
Antonio García

Others Attending

Jeff Willenberg, PCCI
Lt. Miguel Velázquez, CIC
Capt. Benjamín Orengo, St. James
Mr. José J. Martínez

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by Erasmo Reyes, Chairman. Mr. Antonio García was introduced as a new member of the Committee. The Committee also welcomed Mr. Jeff Willenberg.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting were approved upon a motion by Edd Siler seconded by Mary Jo Espasas.

III. REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Perimeter Surveillance System

PHA is working details of financing with banking institutions.

B. Security Manual

Draft under review by PHA. Several changes are being incorporated. Draft should be ready for review by the Security Committee in two weeks.

C. Refresher Training

Refresher training is on-going in medical emergency response procedures and CPR. Training has been conducted in fire response. Police training on detentions and interventions is being programmed.

Mr. Julio Bagué recommended that training should include role playing to simulate various situation scenarios.

D. Police Presence

The state police has been patrolling at Palmas on a daily basis. Interventions are being conducted with all vehicles leaving Palmas. Also, special interventions are being planned for particular areas such as the Harborlakes construction projects.

IV. INCIDENTS REVIEW

Mr. Luis López, Security Director, presented a comprehensive review of all criminal activity and incidents within Palmas del Mar during the month of April. There were no homicides or sexual aggressions reported. An altercation among guests was reported at Club Cala and was handled by St. James and the Humacao Police. There were five illegal appropriations (hurtos) reported in April. Four of these took place in commercial areas and one in a residential area. Fourteen (14) burglaries were reported in April. Four of these took place in Harborside, two in Costa Verde, two in Palmas Reales, two in Villa Franca, one in La Jolla, one in Fairlakes Village, one in Harborside and one in Club Cala. Most residential burglaries involved stolen plasma T.V., laptops, electronic equipment and games. Eight individuals were detained by St. James and two of these arrested by the Police. Two vehicles were reported stolen and one was recovered.

Five rescues were performed by the Beach Patrol bringing to 21 the total of rescues in 2008. This number already exceeds the total number of people rescued in 2007. The Beach Patrol has been provided with a 10-foot emergency rescue board that seems to be working well. Simultaneous rescues have been already performed using the new board.

Security resources have been allocated to deal with the increase in burglaries seen in April. Special emphasis is being given to Harborlakes. Also, the Police and the CIC have implemented special patrols and vigilance over areas most affected by burglars. The municipal police has also assigned a patrol to work Palmas at night.

Lt. Miguel Velázquez from the Police Criminal Investigations Corps (CIC) reported that criminal delinquency in the Humacao regions has increased by 40% and burglaries have increased 111%. The increase in activity in Palmas del Mar is a reflection of what is happening in Puerto Rico and the region in general. Lt. Velázquez added that the CIC is convinced that the large majority of the burglaries taking place in Palmas are being caused by housekeeping service and maintenance and landscaping personnel working around in homes and neighborhoods. They have already identified suspects and have

established a special watch in most sensitive areas. Both the Police and St. James are collaborating in these measures. Lt. Velázquez also indicated that several criminals from the Humacao area that were in jail have been released. Typically when this happens the trend in delinquency increases until they are placed again behind bars. He urged, once more, the individual homeowners to be more proactive in protecting themselves and in supporting security initiatives and judicial actions when criminals are apprehended. Lt. Velázquez gave his personal commitment to continue to work with the community to bring delinquency and criminal activity under control.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Antonio Maldonado reported that PHA has implemented a 100% search of all vehicles carrying garbage, vegetation and concealed equipment out of Palmas. Also, landscaping disposable materials are now required to be taken to PDMU for processing within Palmas. The new procedures have been distributed to all regimes and to landscaping companies and individuals. Also PDMU has taken steps to be ready to receive the additional traffic. A potential problem is that some landscaping work goes on until 5:00 pm and PDMU closes at 4:00 p.m. PDMU has been asked to be open until at least 4:30 p.m. Also, there is landscaping work that takes place on Saturdays and PDMU is closed on that day. According to Mr. Maldonado when situations arise where a vehicle with gardening materials must be allowed to exit Palmas, security will search the vehicle thoroughly to insure that no unauthorized items are being taken out hidden within the disposable material.

Julio Bagué indicated that no one with gardening clippings should be allowed to leave after 4:00 pm. It was pointed out that you cannot prohibit a private vehicle from leaving the premises. That is why the procedure is to have them checked before allowing them to depart. If something illegal is detected the police will then be called into action.

Antonio García suggested that contracts of people working in Palmas be reviewed to insure they are finished by 4:00 p.m. It was pointed out that PHA does not have these contracts but they are held by the individuals, regimes, business or organizations contracting the services. Nevertheless, notification has gone out advising everyone of the new restrictions. Also, it must be remembered that under the ARB rules promulgated as part of the Palmas Design Guidelines work is permitted until 5:00 p.m. Lightwork to include yard work is also allowed on Saturdays.

Edd Siler indicated that, as discussed previously, what will help promoting that only good people work in Palmas is the establishment of a preferred vendor program. Mr. Maldonado added that PHA has a list of recommended vendors posted in the PHA website. Perhaps that list can be updated with the inputs from other organizations and the Business Association. Mr. Bagué concurred on the need to weed out service contractors.

Mr Siler also pointed out that security needs to continue to be visibly proactive in the community. This means stepping out of cars, detaining vehicles, talking to people, providing assistance, etc. This is a matter of continuity in training. Mr. Bagué added that

security must watch over the speed of the patrols as they travel throughout the community. He also suggested that members of the Security Committee should select a date to go around riding in patrol cars to see first-hand what they do and how they approach situations.

Agustin Cabrer pointed out that we are asking too much already of our guards at the main entrances. Must be careful not to overload them with work to the point of inefficiency. Inspections must be done at the exit of regimes. This has proven very effective in deterring stealing of property from residential areas. Mary Jo Espasas concurred with Mr. Cabrer that we need to continue to make it difficult on people entering and exiting Palmas del Mar. Also, Mrs. Espasas pointed out the need to promote the efficiency of alarm systems monitored by PHA.

Mr. Bagué agreed with Mrs. Espasas on the need to make it more difficult on service people entering and leaving the community. Mr. Siler cautioned that we need to be careful with the manner this is done. There are already good contractors saying they will not service Palmas because access control has become too restrictive. That is why he feels a preferred vendor program is needed so that good people are not penalized.

Erasmus Reyes indicated that, as pointed out repeatedly by the CIC and PHA, individual communities need to get 100% involved in supporting every security initiative. All regimes must implement checks on vehicles to prevent stolen property from leaving those areas. Once the stolen goods leave a residential area the chances of leaving Palmas are better. Security guards at regimes have plenty of time to perform these checks. Also, announcing the fact that checks will be performed on vehicles leaving the area has proven in itself an excellent deterrence.

Agustin Cabrer inquired into the contingency security plans for the summer. Mr. Maldonado replied that the plan is already developed and will go into effect commencing with the Memorial Day weekend. The plan contemplates adding bicycle patrols, beach patrols and additional surveillance in the commercial areas such as Palmanova Plaza. Also, special police operations are being coordinated to strictly enforce the municipal code in commercial establishments that remain open late at night.

VI. ADJOURN

The Security Committee adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon a motion by Agustin Cabrer seconded by Mary Jo Espasas.