

**SECURITY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2008
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members:

Antonio Maldonado
Luis López
Julio Bagué
Agapito Cosme
Daniel Vasse
Mary Jo Espasas
Norberto Rodríguez

Others in Attendance:

Capt. Benjamin Orengo, St. James
Lt. Miguel Velásquez, CIC
Sr. José A. Rodríguez, Virtual Eyes
Sr. Jorge Tupac, Virtual Eyes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by acting Chairman Antonio Maldonado in the absence of Erasmo Reyes.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mary Jo Espasas seconded by Agapito Cosme.

III. SITUATION REVIEW WITH THE CIC

Lt. Miguel Velásquez, P.R. Police Criminal Investigation Corps (CIC), Humacao Region briefed the Security Committee on status of investigations pertaining to criminal activity within Palmas del Mar. Of particular interest was the information update regarding the homicide that took place in San Miguel at the end of year 2007. Lt. Velásquez

underscored that the victim of this crime was the subject of investigation by various law enforcement agencies and already had a criminal record. According to Lt. Velázquez the individual got into the wrong business and thought he could safely operate out of Palmas. The individual had been renting a villa at San Miguel for three months.

Lt. Velázquez indicated that thanks to the camera surveillance system installed by PHA at the main gate the CIC was able to establish the circumstances, time and identity of individuals involved in this homicide. He thanked Colonel Luis López, PHA Security Director, and St. James Security for their outstanding collaboration which led to the quick clarification of the crime. Lt. Velázquez pointed out that this was an isolated homicide that would have taken place anywhere and there are no indicators that may lead him to think that this event may represent a dangerous situation for the community.

Regarding the six burglaries that took place in Las Villas de Palmas in December, Lt. Velázquez indicated that polygraphs have been administered to all suspects but one who has refused. He is confident that this case will be clarified very soon. In relation to the gang leader (“El Chino”) responsible for most burglaries that took place in the August–September time frame, this individual has been declared a habitual criminal and has been jailed for a minimum of twenty (20) years. Two other members of this gang were apprehended and sent to jail. The CIC is investigating the latest incident at Mr. Schultz house in Roble Valley. They are attempting to match fingerprints with known criminals in the area.

Lt. Velázquez explained to the Security Committee how the Certificates of Good Conduct are issued and the information that is considered to become a criminal record that will show in these certificates. It was interesting to learn that unless a person has been declared guilty the record and thus the certificate will show clean. The fact that an individual has been accused of a crime or is the subject of an investigation will not be reflected in a Good Conduct Certificate.

IV. STATISTICAL REVIEW

Colonel Luis López provided a detailed report outlining criminal, delinquency and incident activity within Palmas del Mar for the month of December and for the year 2008. Aside from the homicide at year end already discussed, other significant activity during the month of December included eight (8) burglaries, six (6) of them consisting, according to the CIC, of a single burglary operative in Las Villas de Palmas. The other two burglaries took place in Sunrise and Cocoloba. Seven (7) illegal appropriations were also reported during the month of December. These appropriations were scattered throughout Palmas. There was a stolen vehicle in December associated with the homicide in San Miguel discussed in item III of this report. This vehicle was recovered by the CIC. Twenty eight (28) individuals were intervened and six (6) of these were detained and turned over to the police. Three (3) rescues were performed by the Beach Patrol in December bringing the total for 2007 to nineteen (19).

Annual statistics reflect an increase in burglaries reported to PHA Security by fifteen (15) over those reported last year (49). However burglaries reported to PHA in 2007 (64) are twelve (12) below those recorded by the police (76) in 2006. A significant drop in illegal appropriations reported to PHA Security was noted in 2007 (49) compared to 180 in 2006. This has been attributed to more effectiveness in security patrols and the number of people being intervened and turned over to the police. Also, homeowners are more vigilant and are promptly reporting to security unusual activity or suspicious people in the neighborhoods.

PHA has requested P.R. Police criminal data for 2007 to compare with PHA Security reported activity and reconcile the data for accuracy and official reports purposes.

Mr. Julio Bagué pointed out that trash and trash collection operations be closely observed as incidents have shown the possibility of stolen property being taken out of houses and out of Palmas using this method. Mr. Daniel Vasse added that business employees have been detected depositing stolen items in trash cans and coming back later to take them away.

V. VIRTUAL EYES SURVEILLANCE PRESENTATION

Antonio Maldonado introduced Mr. José A. Rodríguez and Mr. Jorge Tupac from Virtual Eyes Surveillance, Inc. Mr. Maldonado indicated he has been working for several months with this company in the development of a proposal for a Perimeter Surveillance System that will help in closing security gaps in the most sensitive areas of Palmas del Mar. The objectives are to enhance security's ability to respond to developing situations, reduce the number of intrusions, safeguard homeowners property and reduce the cost and time surveillance of critical areas. A copy of the most significant aspects of the Virtual Eyes Surveillance presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following the presentation and an intensive question and answer session the Security Committee recommended that this presentation be brought up before the PHA Board of Directors. The Committee also recommended pursuing this initiative to a successful implementation. Aspects of privacy for homeowners in the areas to be impacted need to be considered and evaluated as part of the project.

VI. ADJOURN

The Security Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.