

**SECURITY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 5, 2007
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members:

Edd Siler
Erasmus Reyes
Antonio Maldonado
Luis López
Daniel Vasse
Mary Jo Espasas
Victor Nieto
Agapito Cosme
Agustin Cabrer, Jr.
David Frazier
Norberto Rodríguez
José Colón

Others In Attendance:

Capt. Benjamin Orengo, St. James
Sgt. David Montes, Police CIC
Agent José Maldonado, Police CIC
Agent Omar Maldonado, Police CIC
Agent Osvaldo Rodríguez, Police CIC

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Erasmo Reyes, Chairman of the PHA Security Committee. Mr. Reyes asked every committee member to identify themselves for the benefit of the new members and vice-versa.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 1,2007 meeting were approved upon a motion by Daniel Vasse seconded by Antonio Maldonado.

III. REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS

A. 14 year olds

A special committee has been formed to address the request to have 14-year olds and older drive golf carts to-and-from the Palmas Academy during school hours. Members of that Committee are Mr. Erasmo Reyes, Mr. Edd Siler, Mrs. Maria Mangual (Palmas Academy Board), Mrs. Narcisa Laranjeira (Parent) and Mr. Antonio Maldonado. The committee will meet on November 7, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the PHA facilities to consider this matter and make recommendations to the Security Committee and the PHA Board.

B. South Gate

Mr. Antonio Maldonado provided a status report on the construction of the South District gate. The project is still on hold by the ARB waiting for an endorsement letter from PDMPI. The PHA Board has reviewed this project and its history and endorses its completion. Also, a meeting was held between Mr. Jaime Morgan, Mr. Julio Bagué and the three Presidents of the South District to discuss the project. The South District is solidly behind this project due to their own security and access control concerns. However, Mr. Morgan does not concur with the project and is withholding its endorsement.

IV. St. James Operations

Captain Benjamin Orengo, St. James Security Coordinator briefed the South Committee on St. James operations, personnel deployment and tactics and equipment upgrades. Special emphasis is being placed on licenses, vehicle compliance with the law and vehicle searches. A concerted effort is being made to improve operations at the entrance gates. Strategy for the employment of the tactical elements is being reviewed. Main focus is on watching points of ingress or unauthorized penetration points. Several individuals have been detained and turned over to the Police. Special Attention is being given to the Harborlights and Sunrise areas.

V. Presentation by the CIC

Representatives of the CIC gave an outstanding confidential presentation on criminal elements operating near and within Palmas del Mar. This comprehensive briefing identified individual criminals and how they are connected to crime organizations and burglaries that have taken place within Palmas del Mar.

CIC representatives also mentioned that three of the perpetrators, to include the gang leader of several burglaries committed in Palmas have been arrested. Recovered property has been returned to rightful owners. More arrests are imminent. CIC officers underscored the importance of victims to collaborate with investigations in the clarification of crimes and prosecuting crime perpetrators. Without this cooperation criminals will become more aggressive making harder in the community while rendering police work ineffective.

CIC officers commended Colonel Luis López, PHA Security Director and St. James for the excellent security efforts being put forth in Palmas and the outstanding relationship and collaboration it has been developed with the Police and the CIC Department. According to the CIC agents, a large share of the credit in the success of arresting criminals who perpetrated most of the burglaries that took place in Palmas during the last three months goes to St. James Security and the PHA Security Department under Colonel Lopez leadership. Credit was also given to Mr. Edd Siler, PDMPI, for his cooperation with the investigations which also led to the prosecution of other criminals who had been operating in the Palmas community.

The Security Committee thanked and congratulated the CIC representatives for their efforts and excellent results in handling criminal activity within Palmas del Mar.

VI. Monthly Incidents Review

Colonel Luis López conducted a detailed review of delinquent activity within Palmas during the month of October. There were no homicides, sexual aggressions, robberies or stolen vehicles. There were five burglaries reported and two illegal appropriations. Nine individuals were detained by Palmas Security and five of these were placed under arrest by the Police. It was mentioned that in four of the five burglaries there were no broken windows or doors indicating forced entries. Service people working inside of regimes with keys to these properties are suspects of these burglaries.

Colonel López also reported that a contingency plan was implemented for the Halloween night with excellent results. There were no major problems and several teens were intervened within the act of throwing eggs. The only serious incident was that a girl threw a bottle at a passing golf cart causing a cut in the arm to another girl. The police also intervened in this incident.

VII. Other Business

Captain Benjamin Orenge St. James Patrol vehicles now show the Palmas Security dispatch contact number to help residents identify where to call in case of an emergency or any situation requiring security assistance. Mr. Maldonado indicated that PHA continues to work on a remote surveillance plan and proposal to watch over critical crime sensitive areas in Palmas del Mar. The plan and its associated costs is expected by end of November.

Mr. Daniel Vasse suggested that one passes be issued to vendor companies doing daily business in Palmas. He has already submitted his list of providers. PHA has concurred with this proposal. Companies need to be contacted to stop by the Security Department to pick up passes. Drivers will be required to show their licenses in order to pick up the passes.

Tony Maldonado and Daniel Vasse will work on the Preferred Vendor initiative through the Business Association.

Mary Jo Espasas indicated she has received information from one of her employees about people penetrating Palmas through the Guayanés/Cocoloba area. A special watch needs to be established in this area. The Security Director took note of Mrs. Espasas information.

VIII. ADJOURN

The Security Committee adjourned at 8:10 p.m.