

**SECURITY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008
MINUTES**

Jr
10/9/09

Attendance

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

Others Attending

Capt. Benjamín Orengo, St. James
Sr. Heriberto Colón, Director of Operations, St. James

I. CALL TO ORDER

Erasmus Reyes, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the August 4, 2008 meeting were approved upon a motion by Edd Siler seconded by José Colón.

III. REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Perimeter Surveillance System

Installation of cameras, radios, and antennas is on-going. The equipment for the Harborlights, Port Road and Roble Valley is already installed. Work is in progress in the Cocoloba and Sunrise areas. Project was slightly delayed by heavy rains; however, Virtual Eyes still estimating completion by early October.

The system being installed in La Jolla is already in place and the quality of images is excellent. A similar system has been recommended for Palmas Reales. Also, a recommendation was made to the developer of The Views to join in this project by tying-into the equipment being installed at Sunrise

B. Preferred Vendors Program

Mr. Edd Siler submitted a list of vendors for incorporation in the preferred vendors list being prepared by PHA.

C. Golf Cart Parking Signs

As suggested by Agustín Cabrer at the last Security Committee meeting golf-cart parking signs have been posted at the Plaza del Mar beach access area.

D. Problem at Shipyard's

The problem at the Shipyard's Bar & restaurant continues. Although they stopped their live music entertainment, the place still remains open past the closing hours established by the Municipal Code. People from outside of Palmas are jamming the parking lot, are drinking from the trunk of their cars littering the area, are parking in green areas and no parking zones and are generally disturbing the peace and causing great stress to nearby residents.

Meetings were held with the Mayor of Humacao to discuss the situation and the Mayor instructed the Municipal Police Commissioner to get together with the Director of the Municipal Permits Office to revoke the Use Permit for this establishment. Also, a letter documenting all the problems experienced at this locale and requesting revocation of the Use Permit was sent by the PHA President to the Municipal Permits Office with copy to the Mayor and the President of the Municipal Legislature. The President of the Municipal Legislature has indicated that the Legislature Security Commission will be investigating and conducting hearings. The Permits Office has already investigated and found the Shipyard's in violation of the Use Permit. They informed PHA they will follow the administrative process in place for these cases which involves administrative hearings.

Meanwhile, PHA in coordination with Attorney Israel Delgado, a Palmas resident and a lawyer who works for the Municipality of Humacao, is working in the filing of an injunction to force closure of the establishment until the municipality determines its final course of action.

The Municipal Police, the State Police and Palmas Security are closely monitoring this place and documenting all the problems being encountered at this place. The police has already forced him to close on various occasions to comply with the Municipal Code; however, he continues to challenge the authorities by staying open past authorized hours.

E. Police Station

Following meetings with the Mayor of Humacao, the Humacao Municipal Police Commissioner has confirmed that the PHA Police Station will be manned with officers from the Municipal Police. On September 5, 2008 the Commissioner and the Police Area

Commander visited the PHA facilities and found them adequate for the services to be provided. Two officers with a patrol car will be assigned initially to cover a night shift (8:00 pm to 4:00 am). These officers will be augmented by the State Police during weekends and/or holidays. PHA Security will provide dispatch services and will be in continuous radio contact with this unit.

Services are expected to start on September 15, 2008. Coordination will be held between St. James and the Police at the beginning of each shift to review incidents, problem areas and work routines.

IV. INCIDENTS REVIEW

Luis López, PHA Security Director, presented a comprehensive review of the security incidents for the month of August and year-to-date. There were no major crimes such as homicides, sexual aggressions, aggravated assaults, robberies or car thefts registered at Palmas del Mar.

There were nine illegal appropriations registered throughout the community. Six of these took place in residential areas and three in commercial areas. These illegal appropriations range from vehicle hub-caps to cell phones left unattended in golf-carts.

There were also twelve (12) burglaries reported in August. Six of these burglaries were a single- burglary operative held at Sunrise where items were stolen from houses located next to each other at that location. Items were moved from the houses across a nearby fence where a van loaded and hauled them away. An anonymous call was received at the Security Department reporting the sighting of the van loading the stolen property. The police was notified and responded to the scene; however, by the time they arrived the van had already disappeared. Some stolen items left behind were recovered and returned to the owners. All the burglarized homes were unoccupied at the time of the incident and none had alarms installed. There was also a burglary reported at Beach Village building 176, one at Club Villas and another at Flamboyán Greens.

Three burglaries were also reported at Palmas Reales, two of them the same day. The pattern for these burglaries is the same followed for similar burglaries which took place in Palmas Reales and Villa Franca during the month of July. The CIC has recovered fingerprints and has identified two primary suspects in these cases.

Twenty individuals were intervened in August and two of them were detained and turned over to the police. Security responded to 190 alarm activations. Five persons were rescued from drowning by the Beach Patrol for a total of 37 rescues for the year.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Topless in the Beach

Security has been responding to complaints of people top-less at the beach. However, it was unclear at the time how the new Penal Code categorizes those incidents. With the assistance of Attorney Erasmo Reyes, Security Committee Chairman, it was clarified that in accordance with Article 147 (Obscene Exposure) of the Penal Code any person who exposes any intimate part of his/her body anywhere where another person may take offense shall incur in a misdemeanor. This act does not include lactancy of infants and may carry a maximum penalty of 90 days of incarceration.

The Beach and Security Patrols have been trained on Article 147 and were given laminated cards with the contents of the article and the penalties associated with such violations. This will assist the security officers in properly orienting people unaware of the law restrictions in Puerto Rico regarding top-less and obscene exposure incidents.

B. Stray Dogs

In addition to its trapping program PHA has contracted the services of Dr. Edwin Serrano of Humacao Animal Shelter to help capturing wild dogs with the use of tranquilizer darts. Once dogs are captured they will be taken away by the animal shelter to dispose of them according to the laws of Puerto Rico. Animal Shelter has certified they have the required licenses, permits and public responsibility insurance necessary to carry out these functions. Hold harmless releases have been provided to PHA. Operatives at different times of the day are being planned.

C. Broken Hydrant

José Colón reported that there is a fire hydrant in front of Bahía Del Sur that is hardly visible for being covered with grass and appears broken. Mr. Maldonado will pass the information to PDMU for their action as appropriate.

D. Bottle Thrower

Mr. Edd Siler informed about an individual that throws beer bottles every day along Country Club Drive and the circle. A special watch will be put in place to identify and apprehend this individual.

E. Jet Skies

A question was raised regarding existing policies for jet skies. Mr. Maldonado informed that there is a PHA Board resolution implementing the prohibition of jet skies in the Palmas Marina. Regarding the use of jet skies in beach areas this aspect is regulated by the Navigation Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. He added that, in the past, this has not been a problem at Palmas del Mar.

F. Fishing in Swimming Areas

There was a recent incident involving an altercation between people fishing in the beach (surf-casting) and swimmers in the same area. Swimmers felt that fishing in areas where there are people swimming poses a safety risk to swimmers and other beach users in the immediate vicinity. The Beach Patrol has been instructed to advise people fishing in beach areas that fishing is not allowed when there are people present or swimming in the vicinity to prevent a possible accident. Mr. Maldonado will prepare a detailed guidance to security on this matter.

G. Security Training

Heriberto Colón, St. James Operational Director, informed the Security Committee about training and procedures in response to security calls or incidents. Julio Bagué asked about the St. James training program and the hours being dedicated to train security personnel. A training report will be prepared and distributed to Mr. Bagué as well as to other members of the Security Committee.

H. Closure of Perimeter Spots

Mr. Maldonado reported that he, Mr. Bagué and Mr. Siler had visited certain areas along the Guayanés Perimeter where it appears people are penetrating from the 906 road and other interior roads. Coordination was effected to close those areas by PHA and PDMPI.

VI. ADJOURN

The PHA Security Committee adjourned at 8:00 PM.