

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: June 1, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: George Williams, *Acting Chairman*, Bill Ferguson, Ken Heitzke, *Alternate*

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Rene Phillips, *Website/Court Systems Administrator*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, *BCSO*; Joe Croley, *Hilton Head Area Association of Realtors*; Arthur Benoit, *Chief of Security, Hilton Head Plantation*

Media Present: Daniel Brownstein, *Island Packet*

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. FOIA Compliance:

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve the Minutes of April 6, 2009. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. The Minutes of April 6, 2009 were approved unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report:

None.

5. Unfinished Business:

None.

6. New Business:

- **1st Quarter 2009 Crime Statistics** – Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, BCSO

Crimes Against Persons

Lieutenant Zanelotti stated there has been a significant decrease in Crimes Against Persons. He noted the overall decrease was near 52% from the last quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009. Lieutenant Zanelotti stated he would like to attribute the decrease to the proactive patrols and officers on the scene. Mr. Williams stated the percentage of arrests at near 41% was high and he was pleased to see that number. Lieutenant Zanelotti explained the high percentage of arrests is because the officers are at the scene of Criminal Domestic Violence cases and can make an arrest right away. He also explained the areas of South Forest Beach and Squire Pope Road had the highest numbers but they were also significantly reduced.

Crimes Against Property

Lieutenant Zanelotti noted there was a slight decrease in Crimes Against Property. The decrease was 6.76% in comparison to the 1st Quarter of 2008. He reviewed each area and noted that burglaries, grand larceny, petit larceny, auto theft and arson were all down with the exception of breaking and entering/vehicles having an increase. He explained breaking and entering/vehicles is a crime of opportunity. Lieutenant Zanelotti stated people need to be more in tune to locking their doors and keeping valuables out of plain sight. He said most vehicles that are broken into are unlocked cars with valuables in plain sight. Lieutenant Zanelotti stated they did arrest two individuals that had done seven instances of breaking and entering in one night. Mr. Heitzke asked if there were brochures distributed to visitors to lock their vehicles and place their valuables out of sight. He also asked if they could work with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage rental agencies and hotels to distribute literature encouraging people to lock their vehicles and place their valuables out of sight. Lieutenant Zanelotti said they would work with the Chamber of Commerce on the issue.

Lieutenant Zanelotti reviewed the Crimes Against Property Plantations. He noted an increase in crime in the Long Cove and Spanish Wells Plantations. He explained most crimes involved stealing televisions. Lieutenant Zanelotti noted they are working on these crimes and the suspects are a landscaping crew that is gaining access to the plantations.

Vehicle Collisions

Lieutenant Zanelotti stated Vehicle Collisions were down almost 25%. He explained there had been two fatalities this quarter. He explained one fatality was a passenger in a vehicle and he was thrown out of the car upon impact and died on the scene. The other was an elderly female that crossed a center line in the Windmill Harbor area hitting another vehicle head on. Mr. Heitzke pointed out the discrepancy in the Vehicle Collision analysis per area and the individual breakdowns. Lieutenant Zanelotti said he would check in to it and report back to the Committee.

Tickets

Lieutenant Zanelotti stated tickets were down due to the fact one officer was out for a total of two months and the department was working with three officers instead of four. The officer has returned to work and they will monitor the trend.

Drug Violations

Lieutenant Zanelotti reviewed the quarterly drug violations noting marijuana possession (simple) is the drug crime most encountered.

Mr. Williams stated it has been a month since the new ordinance concerning 3:00 a.m. curfew on the sale and consumption of alcohol. He asked if the sheriff's department has seen any changes that can be addressed. Lieutenant Zanelotti said the officers on still on Friday night patrols and some weekends they patrol two nights. He noted the calls are different than when the establishments served alcohol later and they are working with the bar owners on dealing with the issues.

Mr. Williams thanked Lieutenant Zanelotti for his report.

Chief Arthur Benoit of Hilton Head Plantation spoke addressing the Crimes Against Persons crime statistics for that area. He noted they have over 10,000 residents that live there full time. He said most problems involved Domestic Violence and those problems don't always go away. He stated his staff is much better prepared to deal with these issues due to the training they have received from the Sheriff's Department and wanted the Committee to be aware of the situation.

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Heitzke moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ferguson seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved by:

Bill Ferguson, Acting Chairman