

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: August 5, 2013

Time: 10:03 a.m.

Members Present: John J. McCann and Bill Harkins, *Council Members*

Members Absent: Marc A. Grant, *Chairman*

Town Staff Present: Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*, and Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Captain Joey Woodward, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; Lt. Glenn Zanelotti, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; and Eleanor O'Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

Media Present: None

1. Call to Order

2. Freedom of Information Act 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

a. Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting of July 1, 2013

Since Mr. Harkins was not in attendance at the July 1, 2013 meeting, and Mr. Grant was not present, no approval of the minutes was sought due to lack of quorum.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

a. 2nd Quarter 2013 Crime Statistics – Capt. Joey Woodward

Captain Joey Woodward of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office referenced the 2nd Quarter 2013 Crime Statistics included in the agenda packet and briefly reviewed the statistics and breakdowns for each category. Mr. Harkins noted the statistics indicate a gradual creep upwards in the aggravated assaults and robberies. He complimented the Sheriff's Office on the good job they are doing, but asked what might be required from the Town Council and community standpoint in order to do an even better job. He noted that the criminal activities affecting citizens are exceptionally troublesome, and for visitors it can create a negative impact on the quality of the visit to the Island, and asked what could be done to help with this situation. Captain Woodward explained how the Sheriff's Office works with community leaders and others to encourage vigilance and awareness of

surroundings, and also emphasizes the need to report crime and potential criminal activity through Crime Stoppers and other methods. Mr. McCann and Captain Woodward discussed reasons for why there is a sudden increase in crimes now, which included the economy itself and repeat offenders. While Captain Woodward indicated the Sheriff's Office was doing its job in finding the criminals and making the arrests, the prosecution and conviction is in the hands of the Solicitor and Judge.

In response to Mr. Harkins' inquiry about patterns or common features detected that might help narrow the focus of law enforcement, Captain Woodward indicated they are seeing many crimes of opportunity occurring when cars and residences are left unlocked, with the crimes being committed by both on-island and off-island individuals. Mr. Harkins suggested that Captain Woodward reflect on the crimes being committed and report back to the Committee on what could be done that is not being done from the beginning of the crime through the adjudication process. Responding to Mr. McCann's inquiry about statistics for gated communities, Captain Woodward noted the statistics include those areas as reported by security in the gated communities, who also help deter crime.

Captain Woodward reported that crimes against property and vehicle collisions in the second quarter of 2013 were down from 2012. Captain Woodward and Mr. Harkins discussed the statistics for vehicle collisions occurring at the intersection of the Cross Island Expressway and US Highway 278, which is shown as the Spanish Wells intersection on the report. Captain Woodward offered to provide more details in next quarter's report on this specific intersection.

Captain Woodward reviewed the traffic, criminal, and marine tickets issued for year-to-date 2013 and the breakdown among patrol division, traffic team, and marine patrol. Captain Woodward confirmed that the statistics included warning and regular tickets, and Mr. McCann requested a breakdown of these for the next quarter's report.

Captain Woodward noted the volunteer hours for reserve deputies and volunteers and clarified the difference between the designations.

Mr. Harkins expressed his delight in having Captain Woodward in his new position and expressed the Committee's desire to assist him when needed. He asked Captain Woodward to share with the Committee in the future his two or three key professional goals for his team.

Mr. McCann thanked Captain Woodward for his report, and asked for any public comment. There was none.

Adjournment

At 10:18 a.m. Mr. Harkins moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn W. Buchman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

John J. McCann, Acting Chairman