

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, Chairman Wildrick and Committee Member Diamond were present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Wildrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion was made by Committee Member Diamond, and seconded by Chairman Wildrick, to approve the Agenda. On call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. REMARKS BY ROBERT N. WILDRICK, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Wildrick stated that the purpose for this meeting is to present, and answer any questions about, the Town's contingency plans in the event that the Flagler Memorial Bridge is closed.

V. REMARKS BY WILLIAM J. DIAMOND, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Committee Member Diamond commended Chairman Wildrick for calling this meeting, stating that nothing is more important than the safety of the people on this island.

Chairman Wildrick thanked the public safety officials for their efforts in this regard.

Committee Member Diamond echoed Chairman Wildrick's thanks.

VI. STAFF REPORT OF ACTIONS BEING TAKEN AND BEING CONSIDERED TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY DURING THE PLANNED EXTENDED CLOSURE OF THE FLAGLER MEMORIAL BRIDGE

1 **A. CONTEXT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIONS.**
2 **[PETER B. ELWELL, TOWN MANAGER]**
3

4 Town Manager Elwell stated that today's presentation fits into a larger set of
5 actions that are being taken by the Town and many other agencies around us.
6 Some of these actions include re-stripping the streets, determining what kinds of
7 turns can be engineered at certain intersections to maximize the flow of traffic
8 through the areas that are going to have to carry the extra traffic loads, and
9 establishing a sophisticated network of cameras and a communication system to
10 allow public safety organizations to communicate with each other in real time and
11 with the command center that has control of the traffic signals in downtown West
12 Palm Beach and the corridors out to I-95.
13

14 **B. REVIEW OF PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIONS.**
15 **[KIRK W. BLOUIN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY]**
16

17 Director of Public Safety Blouin spoke regarding the Town's partnership with the
18 Florida Department of Transportation and Palm Beach County Traffic
19 Management. He stated that they are working on an intelligent traffic system.
20 This intelligent traffic system is a system of traffic signals that can be remotely
21 operated, through a control room, all the way out to I-95. If we need to clear a
22 passage, then the lights in that area can be turned green. We also have in place
23 the Opticon system, which allows rescue vehicles to control traffic lights by
24 remote control. He commended his Staff for all the hard work that they put into
25 developing these plans. He stated that the plans are ready to be enacted at any
26 second. The two focal points of these plans are life safety and traffic alleviation.
27

28 **1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**
29

30 Deputy Fire Chief Donatto stated that the Town is constantly reviewing
31 the latest peer-reviewed literature and evidence-based medicine to
32 improve pre-hospital care. The Town is also researching the telemedicine
33 concept, which allows paramedics to utilize mobile devices to come face
34 to face with emergency room doctors so that they can better guide the
35 paramedics. Responding to Chairman Wildrick, Deputy Chief Donatto
36 spoke regarding the equipment and medicines available on the
37 ambulances, and the training of the paramedics.
38

39 Chairman Wildrick requested that Staff prepare something for the public
40 that will tell them what they can expect in the back of the ambulance and
41 the level of training that our paramedics have.
42

43 Deputy Chief Donatto spoke regarding mutual aid, the level of training the
44 Department's paramedics have, the coordination and cooperation the
45 Town has with the City of West Palm Beach, and the capabilities of the
46 TraumaHawk helicopter.

Chairman Wildrick requested that the handouts provided by Staff be distributed to the public and put on the Town's website. He stated that he wants to alleviate any concerns and stop rumors.

2. FIRE RESPONSE SERVICES

See discussion above.

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS

Director of Public Safety Blouin provided an overview of the traffic plan. He stated that the Police and Fire-Rescue Departments did a successful test run of the plan today. He added that, as with the emergency medical plan, the traffic plan is dynamic and will be tweaked if needed.

Town Manager Elwell stated that the Town has been in discussions with the Coast Guard, Florida Department of Transportation, and the bridge contractor regarding limiting bridge openings during rush hours. The Town is requesting a two hour window in the morning and a four hour window in the late afternoon/early evening.

Deputy Police Chief Szarszewski spoke regarding the traffic situations around the schools, and the options planned to alleviate them.

Town Manager Elwell stated that the Town has a backup plan to physically get out into the intersections and get emergency vehicles where they need to go if the technology doesn't work as it should. He emphasized that it's not just the intersections that the vehicles are arriving at, but also those way out in front of them.

Chairman Wildrick stated that hundreds of hours of planning have gone into this process, and drills are being run to make sure that the plans work. There has been a lot of coordination with FDOT, Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, and many others. The Police and Fire-Rescue Departments are acting as one team for the good of public safety, and have developed backup plans. He emphasized the importance of being on the same wavelength and acting as one town.

Town Manager Elwell stated that the engineers are looking into the potential for re-striping the lanes on the Royal Palm and Southern Bridges to increase the flow of traffic.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Allen Mason, 1485 Via Manana, spoke regarding the position of the bridge span during the closure, vehicular traffic on the Bridge, and the use of technology in the Town's

plans.

Sanford Kuvin, 149 E. Inlet Drive, expressed his concerns regarding an increase in mortalities when the Bridge closes, response times, and staffing of emergency personnel.

Director of Public Safety Blouin reiterated that the Town has multiple plans should this one fail.

Town Manager Elwell stated that one of the good things that have come out of this situation is that a number of these elements will stay in place because they will make the quality of life for the community better for the long haul.

Pat Cooper, Palm Beach Civic Association, spoke regarding their Medical Committee's efforts to address this issue.

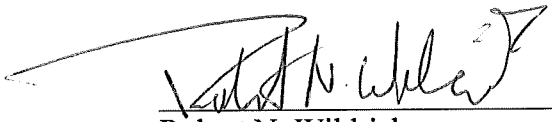
Chairman Wildrick emphasized the need to speak with one voice and for all private efforts to be coordinated with the Town.

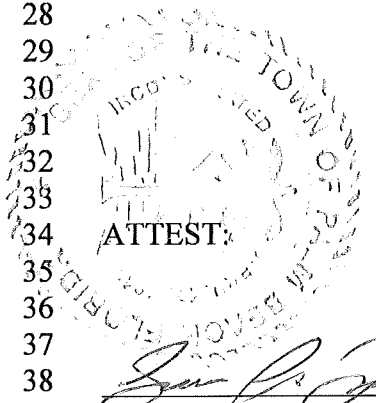
VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Public Safety Committee Meeting of Tuesday, March 5, 2013, was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

APPROVED:


Robert N. Wildrick
Chairman


ATTEST:


Susan A. Owens, MMC
Town Clerk

4/9/2013
Date