

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

1 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

2
3 The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 9, 2017,
4 at 4:30 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, Chair Zeidman and Committee
5 Member Lindsay were present.

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7 **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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9 Chair Zeidman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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11 **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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13 The Agenda was approved as printed.

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16 **IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

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18 John Scarpa, 1676 South Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding traffic congestion on the Island, and
19 the relief of traffic through adjustments to the traffic lights in West Palm Beach. Director
20 Blouin responded that the Public Safety Department had routinely worked with Palm Beach
21 County on adjusting the timing on traffic lights.

22
23 David Mack, 958 Northlake Way, spoke regarding the bridge openings during rush hours,
24 the traffic light adjustments, the possibility of using traffic control officers to help direct
25 traffic, and thanked the Public Safety Department for their service.

26
27 Lee Scott, 2275 S. Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding consideration of traffic congestion
28 affecting medical personnel who were on call 24-hours a day, 365 days per year. Deputy
29 Director Donatto urged that residents dial 911 when there was an emergency; if people
30 waited for individual physicians to get to the home, there could be a significant delay. In
31 addition, those patients who were not severe could be treated by care on scene. Discussion
32 continued regarding residents utilizing the services of their own doctor, rather than using
33 emergency personnel; the mandates of the Secret Service during Presidential visits; and the
34 lack of control over air flight paths during Presidential visits to the Town.

Bradford Gary, 229 Onondaga, spoke regarding the plan for a helicopter lift in the Town. Director Blouin replied that the military controlled that part of the security plan. Town Manager Bradford confirmed that an application was pending for a permit at Mar-a-Lago for a helicopter landing pad for use of President Trump.

Scott Lewis, Scott Lewis Gardening and Trimming, thanked the Public Safety Committee for meeting today to clarify all of the traffic control issues.

Donald Singer, 2295 S. Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding traffic circulation in the area south of Sloan's Curve. Discussion ensued regarding the traffic patterns that would be available. Director Blouin clarified that the roadway south of Mar-a-Lago would not be shut down this weekend due to Presidential travel plans.

Colin Goldsmith, landscaper, questioned whether landscapers would be allowed on the Island on Saturday, or during President's Day weekend. Director Blouin replied that the recommendation was to leave the Island by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, however, if employees needed to be on the Island other than that, for a certain project or emergency, the weekend hours had not changed.

Susan Gary, 229 Onondaga, thanked the Committee, and spoke regarding the City of West Palm Beach traffic study on Okeechobee Blvd., and suggested that the Town contact them. Town Manager Bradford replied that the City of West Palm Beach had been contacted regarding the Mobility Study that was being done, and the Town's traffic engineer would critique the scope of work to be sure that it was comprehensive.

V. **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING TO DISSEMINATE TOWN PREPARATIONS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISITS TO PALM BEACH**

Chair Zeidman spoke regarding the purpose of the meeting, to address the visits of President Trump, stating that the Town was honored to have the President here, and advised that the Town did not have control over the travel plans for the President, which was in the hands of the Secret Service. There was a plan in place, and the Town needed to follow that plan. Issues to be addressed today were regarding what would occur when there was an emergency in the Town during traffic gridlock, and traffic mitigation measures. Ms. Zeidman stated that the Town's primary concern during Presidential peak time is to be in a position to quickly evacuate residents in need of emergent care.

Public Safety Director Blouin provided an overview of the plans to address emergency transport situations, traffic gridlock and traffic mitigation. He then provided some statistics of Fire-Rescue patient transports, discussed the use of Opticom technology, dispatch communication with the bridge tenders as well as with Palm Beach County traffic control, and the agreement with the Palm Beach County Health District for times that trauma hawk assistance was needed. Director Blouin reviewed the town's plan in detail, stating that the

1 Town has partnered with Trauma Hawk of Palm Beach County to arrange for expedited air
2 transport from six identified locations on the island, which are: Par 3, Recreation Center,
3 Palm Beach Country Club, The Breakers, The Everglades Club, and The Bath and Tennis
4 Club.

5
6 Discussion ensued regarding how to expedite the fire department personnel to the scene
7 during high volume traffic to allow fire department personnel to gain immediate access.
8 Chair Zeidman stressed waiting often leads to a worse prognosis. Residents were urged to
9 call 911 in a timely manner.

10
11 Deputy Public Safety Director Darrell Donatto reiterated that the problem of traffic was not
12 new to the Town, and Public Safety officials were well prepared for it, and are confident
13 that in any given situation, people in critical need would be ensured of rapid transport.

14
15 Director Blouin addressed the traffic mitigation plan, noting that the north bridge was half
16 functional right now, Southern Blvd., as well as the areas in and around Mar-a-Lago were
17 closed when the President was being transported. The remaining roads were not meant to
18 handle the resulting volume of traffic. The only thing that would truly mitigate the
19 situation would be less vehicles on the roadways. Public safety was looking at mitigation
20 from every angle, and was working with Palm Beach County, the City of West Palm
21 Beach, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Coast Guard to help alleviate the
22 situation.

23
24 One component of the plan was to encourage landscapers, pool company employees, and
25 construction workers to be off the Island by 3:00 p.m. on every Friday from now until May
26 1, 2017. The Town Manager had also requested non-essential staff to adjust their schedules
27 as need be.

28
29 Town Manager Thomas Bradford spoke regarding the traffic mitigation plan, encouraged
30 all citizens to sign up for the Town alerts on the website, and to use Google maps if
31 possible, or traffic apps, to determine where traffic problems were located.

32
33 Chair Zeidman mentioned that Mayor Coniglio had contacted the Coast Guard to determine
34 what could be done to decrease the number of times the bridges go up and block traffic.
35 Director Blouin added that the Coast Guard had been requested to restrict bridge openings
36 during rush hours.

37
38 Chair Zeidman spoke regarding protestors on the Island. Town Attorney Randolph
39 clarified that protestors did not need a permit; it was a part of their First Amendment rights,
40 as long as they were not blocking the normal flow of traffic. Director Blouin noted that the
41 Secret Service would designate a safe area around the Mar-a-Lago property.

42
43 Assistant Director of Public Works, Eric Brown, spoke regarding the difficulty in trying to
44 manage traffic across the north bridge, noting that the Town did not own it, and was not
45 managing that construction project. Many suggestions and ideas had been made, and staff
46 was diligent about listening to residents and trying to address any concerns.

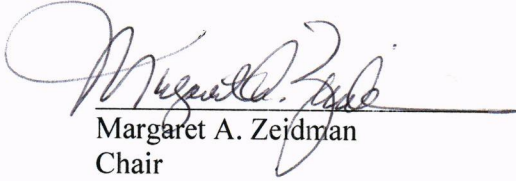
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3 **VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS**
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5 Chair Zeidman reminded everyone that Public Safety Day would be held on Saturday,
6 February 11, 2017, in the Town of Palm Beach, and it would be open to the public.

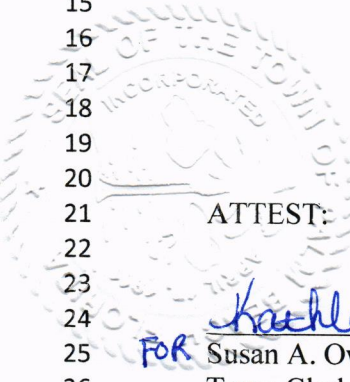
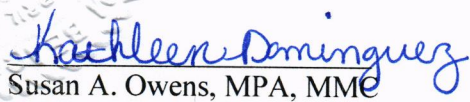
7 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**
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9 There being no further business, the Public Safety Committee meeting of Thursday,
10 February 9, 2017, was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.
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12 APPROVED
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Margaret A. Zeidman
Chair

ATTEST:


24 
25 FOR Susan A. Owens, MPA, MMC
26 Town Clerk

27
28 3/14/17
29 Date

