

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

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

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3 The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 6,
4 2016, at 3:09 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, Chair Zeidman and
5 Committee 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. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – None**

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13 **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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15 Motion was made by Committee Member Lindsay, and seconded by Chair Zeidman,
16 to approve the Agenda. On call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.
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18 **V. UPDATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES/STATUS OF POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE**
19 **DEPARTMENT**

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21 Chair Zeidman congratulated Deputy Fire Rescue Chief Darrell Donatto on receiving the
22 Fire Chief of the Year Award by the Florida Fire Chief's Association and the
23 committee thanked him for his commitment to Public Safety.
24

25 Director of Public Safety Blouin provided an update of the current activities of the Police
26 and Fire Department. Discussion ensued regarding the attributes for the crime reduction,
27 the reputation of the Town of Palm Beach as a safe community and the culture and
28 environment of the public safety staff.
29

30 **Police Department Successes**

- 31
32 1. Despite staff and budget reduction, crime has significantly decreased over the last 30
33 years. In 1987 there were 699 "Part 1" crimes; in 2016 there were 128. Part 1 crimes
34 include burglary, theft and violent crimes such as murder and rape. Most Part 1 crimes
35 in Palm Beach are burglary and theft.
36
37 2. The 2016 clearance rate, defined as percent of crimes solved, was 60% while the
38 national average is 18%. Director Blouin cites several factors that contribute to the
39 department's success: a culture that values deterrence and prevention; vigilant
40 officers; increased patrol operation; and cameras which increase solvability.

Fire Department Successes

1. Assistant Fire Chief Duane spoke regarding the 22% reduction in false fire alarms for 2016. He also reviewed the "Fall Prevention Initiative." Falls are the most frequent call for Fire-Rescue medical help. Many of the falls lead to serious health problems and most could be prevented. The Palm Beach Fire & Rescue will initiate a program that reduces falls by: providing better balance classes, performing in home risk assessments for those residents who express interest, and gathering statistics which will help identify those individuals at high risk.

REVIEW OF TOWN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE MATTHEW

Director of Public Safety Blouin provided a report of the Town's response to Hurricane Matthew.

Discussion ensued regarding the low number of subscribers to the Town's email alert system for emergency information and the lack of communication from Florida Power and Light.

Additionally, Director Blouin recommend that the Town adopt a four (4) phase system for re-entry to the island; Phase 1 – Police, Fire and Safety Personnel only, Phase 2 – Residents and building managers, Phase 3 – Business owners, employees, and patrons, Phase 4 – Checkpoints at areas of power outages.

Feedback was reported from the South End of Palm Beach which included one incident where the condo manager could not get back on the island before the residents of her building and the concern about lack of police presence for re-entry south of the 3475 South Ocean building. Director Blouin reassured residents that a police officer will be stationed at that entry point in the future.

Overall, Director Blouin was pleased with the Town's response. Police and Fire personnel cleared trees and debris beginning at 3:00 a.m. which enabled residents to get to their homes earlier than anticipated.

VI. PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Director of Public Safety Blouin provided a summary of the Town of Palm Beach's role during the current visit from President Elect Trump over the Thanksgiving holiday and the Town's response plan in preparation for future visits from the President. Mr. Blouin reported that most of the personnel resources will come from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's department but there will be some impact to the Town's department as well.

VII. TOWN OF PALM BEACH ZIKA RESPONSE

Director of Public Safety Blouin provided a summary of the department's role with Zika Virus prevention, education and enforcement. Specifically, Building Inspectors and Public Works employees have received instructions on identifying high risk areas of mosquito breeding, Code Enforcement formalized a process of resident notification, water treatment and remedy should increased mosquito activity be identified at construction sites.

VIII. RESIDENT SAFETY CONCERNS

Director of Public Safety Blouin spoke regarding the police department's plan to increase their presence on the bike trail.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of bringing back the Citizens Police Academy and Neighborhood Watch Program.

IX. ANY OTHER MATTERS – None

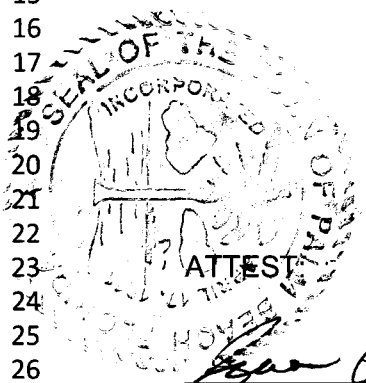
X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Public Safety Committee meeting of December 6, 2016, was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

APPROVED



Margaret A. Zeidman
Chair



ATTEST



Susan A. Owens, MPA, MMC
Town Clerk

1/13/17
Date

