

Rancho Bernardo Community Council's

Public Safety Committee Minutes

January 15, 2008

1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7pm. Members present: Keith Worthington, Jay Riordan, Robin Kaufman, Police Community Relations Officer Paul Lennon. Guests: Barbara Levine, Gus Davis, Ralph Parris, Nancy Vogel, Evelyn Dobson, Mike Lutz.

2) Approval of Minutes: Motion made and accepted.

3) Reports: Resident Barbara Levine was allowed to present her information first as she had another meeting to attend. Ms. Levine feels the reverse 911 was not as effective as it should have been during the October fires. People either did not receive the call, received it too late or given too little time to evacuate, or did not realize there was a recorded message ~ due to the long pause, the hung up. Officer Paul Lennon did explain that if the lines were busy, the phone number was placed back into the system and called at a later time.

Ms. Levine is proposing the development of a siren system to be used in conjunction with the reverse 911. Many places prone to tornadoes or hurricanes implement this system to warn of impending dangers. There is a siren system in Crest, which is in the East County of San Diego. Ms. Levine was able to briefly present her idea directly to the Mayor, Supervisor Jacobs as well as City Council President Peters during a PBS special forum on Monday, January 14. All three felt it was a good idea, implement and one that is not cost prohibitive. The next step is to get full support from various government representatives in order to implement the system. The RBCC Public Safety Committee will be working in conjunction with the RBCC Government Relations Committee on this project. Senator Feinstein has already been contacted and a follow up on the issue will take place at the RBCC monthly meeting on Thursday, January 24.

-Police Report: Community Relations Officer Paul Lennon reported the following:

-at the time of the Public Safety Committee meeting, police indicated that the stabbing of a 17 year old in the High Country West area was not gang related or a racial matter. It seems the three in the vehicle made a comment to the teenager on the skateboard. The teen made a reply, which annoyed the ones in the car. They got out of the car, beat him and gave him superficial knife wounds. The police were still investigating the matter.

-on January 7 a person at 7/11 was accosted by Hispanic men with sticks and fled. Medics and fire fighters arrived on the scene. While taking care of the person, the attackers returned. Medics and fire fighters were able to get the license plate of the vehicle and one of the attackers was arrested.

-on December 28, a women walking on West Bernardo Drive at approximately 10:40 pm was robbed by a man and a woman who pointed a gun at her.

-commercial burglaries are still occurring. Thieves know to cut the phone lines which make the alarm systems inactive.

-there is also an increase of identity theft which is taking place when such places as doctor or dentist offices are broken in to. Thieves break in to get hold of patient files, which have all the necessary information for identity theft.

-there has also been an increase in phone solicitation for donations. Police warn that the majority of the calls are not reputable and it is best to only donate when you are researching the group. Not when you are being solicited.

-police are also discouraging residents to give money to the panhandlers who walk the medians. If residents give them money, it encourages them to stay in the community as well as encourages other panhandlers to come to the community. If someone feels the need to give a donation, do so by giving to an organization which can help people get back on their feet. The majority of panhandlers in and around our community are known drug addicts.

-we now have two police officers who are driving through our community on a regular basis since the fires. These two officers are being paid overtime, which can add up quickly. We need to let our city officials know if we still want these officers and if they can station two on a regular basis which are not taken from other communities or paid over time.

Neighborhood Watch Report: Gary Carlson was unable to attend. However, Ralph Parris gave a summary of the recent Neighborhood Watch meeting.

-Ralph reported that Neighborhood watch is talking of developing a type of informal phone tree system which could be implemented in the event of an emergency.

-They are also working on identifying areas in our community which do not presently have Neighborhood Watch volunteers.

-Pat White is arranging an upcoming training session for potential Neighborhood Watch volunteers which will take place in March.

-Ralph also mentioned a couple of members of the now defunct Emergency Preparedness Program are signed up to take the upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course.

RSVP: Maria Graver was unable to attend. She gave the following statistics for this month:

Bank Checks: 1,034

Citizen Contacts: 9

Crime Prevention: 165

School Patrol: 65

Vacation house checks: 346

YANA Visits: 139

Total days of patrol: 25

Total patrol hours: 832

Total non-patrol hours: 737 (admin hours include special hours for fire related tasks)

Total hours worked: 1,569

Fire Report: due to responding to a call, there was no fire report for the meeting.

Other Items: Resident Gus Davis returned this month with updated information on the attic vents. There was an article on December 30th in the Union Tribune on the vents. Mr. Davis spoke to someone at CalFires who told him no vents have been approved with a protocol. New law states they have to be ¼ inch mesh to be 'ember resistant'. However, many who are knowledgeable about attic vents and homes burning from the inside out feel 1/8 inch would be better. In his research, Mr. Davis discovered many states require 1/8 inch mesh. He brought along a sample showing the difference between ¼ inch and 1/8 inch mesh as well as how inexpensive and easy it would be to replace the old mesh with the new mesh. Mr. Davis would like to see some sort of law not only requiring all new homes use 1/8 inch mesh, but that existing homes be retrofitted with it. He will be attending the Government Relations Committee meeting on Wednesday January 16 to follow up on this issue.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Kaufman