

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

**Date:** February 1, 2010

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Bill Harkins, Chairman; George Williams, Ken Heitzke, Alternate

**Members Absent:** Bill Ferguson

**Town Staff Present:** Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Rene Phillips, *Website/Court Systems Administrator*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

**Others Present:** Captain Toby McSwain, *BCSO*; Arthur Benoit, *Chief of Security, Hilton Head Plantation*; Anna Cauthen, *Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce*

**Media Present:** None

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**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. FOIA 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:**

Mr. Williams moved to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2009. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion. The Minutes of June 1, 2009 were approved 2-0-1. (Mr. Heitzke abstained because he was not a member of the dais at said meeting)

**4. Chairman's Report:**

None.

**5. Unfinished Business:**

None.

**6. New Business:**

• **4th Quarter 2009 Crime Statistics** – Captain Toby McSwain, BCSO

Captain McSwain updated the Committee on staffing. Captain McSwain reported statistics concerning the bar detail. He explained there are nine officers within the Department that are certified through SLED to conduct bar inspections and issue warnings and citations for any and all violations. Captain McSwain stated that since August of 2009 there have been 465 inspections resulting in 16 Department of Revenue Violations, 111 warnings and 26 arrests. He added they have also conducted 100 observations to see if there is any illegal activity taking place. He reported he did not know if the

Sheriff was going to include these statistics in the Crime Statistics provided to the Town. He stated he thought the Sheriff would report these statistics on a yearly basis. Mr. Harkins asked Captain McSwain to explain what a warning entailed. Captain McSwain gave an example of serving after hours within minutes of the required closing time. He said officers would in that instance give a warning to the establishment rather than cite them. Captain McSwain went on to explain the current format in which the Crime Statistics are reported such as the ones included in this report will cease as of this quarter. He stated there is a lot of information included in the current report that does not need to be in there. He said the Town will receive the same report that is submitted to SLED. He said they will not be breaking the crimes out according to population noting they feel they cannot determine the population on Hilton Head Island at any given time. He stated Mr. Williams suggested they review the contract to make sure they comply with the requirements of the contract. Mr. Heitzke noted he felt the Sheriff's office was doing themselves a disservice by changing the report. He said there would be no basis to see if there have been improvements in combating crimes. Mr. Heitzke suggested they check with other communities and see how they are compiling the reports. Captain McSwain explained what the Town will receive will basically be the index crimes.

### **Crimes Against Persons**

Captain McSwain stated Crimes Against Persons were down 12% for the fourth quarter of 2009 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2008. He went in to detail concerning arrests concerning the armed robberies noting the department has made headway in solving the crimes. Captain McSwain reviewed the areas where crime has increased. He also reviewed the Crimes Against Persons in plantations noting they were down over 55%.

### **Crimes Against Property**

Captain McSwain stated Crimes Against Property were only down a little over 2%. He explained there were multiple burglaries that took place in the South Forest Beach, North Forest Beach and Singleton/Bradley Beach areas. He reported they have made arrests in the cases noting the burglaries have subsided in those areas. Captain McSwain stated that Crimes Against Property in the plantations has decreased over 9%.

### **Vehicle Collisions**

Captain McSwain reviewed Vehicle Collisions on the Island noting they are down almost 4% reviewing each category. Mr. Harkins asked if there is a specific location on William Hilton Parkway which needs examined due to high numbers of vehicle collisions. Captain McSwain responded that his department sends reports to the Town's engineering department for review and tracking.

### **Tickets**

Captain McSwain reported the traffic tickets for the fourth quarter of 2009 were down slightly due to staffing. He stated he expects to be back at full staff soon and have all units back out on the road.

### **Drug Violations**

Captain McSwain informed the Committee members there are fewer cases in the drug violations for the quarter. He noted that cases reported in the fourth quarter could have originated in years past and some cases take a long time. He assured the Committee members all cases stay active until resolved. Captain McSwain explained the report includes numbers from the uniformed patrol as well as the narcotics investigative team.

**7. Adjournment:**

Mr. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Heitzke seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved by:

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Bill Harkins, Chairman