

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

**Date:** August 2, 2010

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

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

**Members Absent:** Bill Ferguson, George Williams

**Town Staff Present:** Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

**Others Present:** Captain Toby McSwain, *BCSO*; Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, *BCSO*

**Media Present:** Cassie Foss, *Island Packet*

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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. Heitzke noted he was present at the May 3, 2010 meeting and asked that the minutes be corrected to include his name. Mr. Heitzke moved to approve the corrected minutes of May 3, 2010. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion. The Minutes of May 3, 2010 were approved 2-0.

**4. Unfinished Business:**

None.

**5. New Business:**

- **2nd Quarter 2010 Crime Statistics** – Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, BCSO

**Crimes Against Persons**

Lieutenant Zanelotti reviewed the analysis and noted the concerns with the number of forceful rapes. He said questions had surfaced as to the possibility of a serial rapist. He explained of the four, two of the incidents were domestic crimes. He said in all cases the perpetrator was known to the victim. Lieutenant Zanelotti reported of the nineteen robberies committed eight of them were armed robberies and eleven of them were strong-arm robberies where no weapon

is involved. He added seven of the robberies are active and the department made six arrests in connection with the cases.

### **Crimes Against Property**

Mr. Harkins observed the level of crime seems to have been hovering at the same level for the past three years. Lieutenant Zanelotti stated that during this quarter the department has identified four subjects who were committing the car break-ins on North and South Forest Beach and Marshland Road. He also stated in addition to the car break-ins there were incidents on the beach and the department identified three individuals connected to the cases. Mr. Harkins noted the 25 incidents of larceny in the Shelter Cove area. Lieutenant Zanelotti explained they were mainly shoplifting cases at the Mall at Shelter Cove. Brian Hulbert added that three of the cases had been prosecuted and all three received 30 days in jail.

### **Vehicle Collisions**

Lieutenant Zanelotti reported there have been 146 total vehicle collisions during the second quarter. Mr. Harkins asked if in the future Windmill Harbor and Jenkins Road could be listed separately. Lieutenant Zanelotti said he would look in to it. He explained of the three fatalities during the second quarter, all three involved alcohol. Two of them were the drivers and one of them was a pedestrian on a bicycle that was under the influence.

### **Tickets**

Lieutenant Zanelotti reviewed the ticket comparison from 2009 to 2010. Mr. Heitzke asked if there was a way to separate visitors from locals. He explained Council sometimes receives letters stating tourists are targeted and it may help if he could see the numbers. Lieutenant Zanelotti said this was not possible. Captain McSwain assured the Committee his officers were not singling out tourists.

Mr. Harkins asked Lieutenant Zanelotti if he could identify the two biggest troublesome areas in terms of Crimes Against Property. Mr. Harkins went on to ask if the Lieutenant thought North and South Forest Beach would be the areas he would identify. Lieutenant Zanelotti explained these areas are beach locations with public parking, heavily populated with spring break vacationers and high rental areas. Mr. Harkins asked if the Town was doing enough to help the Sheriff's office with cameras in key areas for surveillance. Tom Fultz approached the dais and informed the Committee the Town can only install the cameras on Town property. Mr. Harkins asked if the cameras could be installed on private property if the property owner requested it. Brian Hulbert stated that public funds used for private property is prohibited by law.

Mr. Harkins asked if there was anyone from the audience that wished to speak. Mr. Jessie Iverson approached the dais. He asked if the Sheriff's Department on Hilton Head Island is more reactive than proactive. Mr. Harkins asked Captain McSwain to answer the question. Captain McSwain stated that is something the department has reviewed over the last four or five years. He stated a police agency cannot and should not always be reactive but at this point looking at the numbers the department is probably more reactive than proactive. He explained with the current manpower and the level of activity the department cannot be as proactive as they would like. Captain McSwain said they try to be proactive when time and manpower

allows. He stated the bar detail is very proactive and that manpower is above and beyond the manpower on the street due to increased financing from the Town. Mr. Harkins pointed out two other areas where the Town has encouraged being proactive is the fast tracking of prosecuting habitual criminals and the forensics laboratory.

Mr. Harkins thanked Captain McSwain and Lieutenant Zanelotti for their time and the report.

**6. Adjournment:**

Mr. Heitzke moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harkins seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved by:

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Bill Harkins, Chairman