

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: May 2, 2016

Time: 10:03 AM

Members Present: Marc A. Grant, *Chairman*; and Bill Harkins, *Council Members*

Members Absent: Lee Edwards, *Council Member*

Town Staff Present: Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; and Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Kim Likins, *Council Member*; various residents from the South Forest Beach area; and Eleanor O'Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

Media Present: None

1. Call to Order

2. Freedom of Information Act 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

a. Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting of April 4, 2016

A motion to approve the April 4, 2016 minutes was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

a. 1st Quarter 2016 Crime Statistics – Capt. Joey Woodward

Lt. Jason Covington from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office presented a brief PowerPoint outlining the detailed crime statistics for the 1st quarter of 2016, as cited in the Uniform Crime Report, which is included in the agenda packet.

He reviewed the breakdown of the statistics for Crimes Against Persons, noting a decrease in numbers, and Crimes Against Property, which he noted are about average for this period, with the highest number of incidents in the areas of South Forest Beach area, Point Comfort, and Wilborn Road. Mr. Harkins expressed his concern about the high numbers in the Squire Pope Road area, and Lt. Covington explained that this area includes the school campuses where incidents of stolen iPads and cell phones occur, and some could be prevented if houses and vehicles were locked. He explained the role of the School Resource Officers (SRO) within the high school and middle schools to educate students on safety issues, and Chairman Grant noted that the SRO's file the larceny reports, but often are not informed when missing iPads and cell phones are located.

Lt. Covington reported that the number of vehicles collisions were up compared to the same period last year, and he briefly outlined the tickets issued for traffic, criminal, warnings, and for marine

patrol. Mr. Harkins requested a breakdown of warnings issued for texting while driving to determine if more education is needed, and Lt. Covington agreed to provide those statistics on the next report. He outlined the number of reserve deputy and volunteer hours, and reported the total number of calls for service were approximately 15,000 during this period.

Lt. Covington reported to Chairman Grant that many of the new officers have received radar detection certification, new radars have been purchased and equipped in vehicles, and more radar presence will be available in preparation for the summer and increased vehicular traffic. Lt. Covington also noted proactive measures are being planned with 2 officers assigned to the beach, with overlapping shifts, and increased presence will be visible during peak hours of the day.

Mr. Harkins noted the Sheriff's budget request had included 4 additional officers, and Lt. Covington could not specifically identify what role the new officers would play.

Chairman Grant and Lt. Covington discussed the role the Sheriff's Office is taking to work with neighborhoods and POA's on safety issues.

Jack Daly from the Forest Beach Association confirmed that the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is arranging meetings with them to discuss methods to improve the effectiveness of their patrols.

Eleanor O'Key questioned whether Segways were being used by the BCSO in the Shelter Cove area, but Lt. Covington identified those as being used by private security with no immediate plans in place to use Segways by the BCSO.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. Grant. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn W. Buchman
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

/Approved July 11, 2016
Marc A. Grant, Chairman