

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

June 3, 2014

ROLL CALL: Present were Dr. Laura Kressler, Stan Zirkin, Matthew Inzeo, Mary Thomas and Cindy Comproni. Also present were City liaison Mary Johnson, PIO George Matthews and Sergeant Donovan. Councilmember Silke Pope was present. Not in attendance were Eunice Pierre and William James.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting on May 6, 2014 were approved with the stipulation that the costs for the "Are You Ready" give a ways be changed. Dr. Kressler will e-mail Mary Johnson the amount.

OLD BUSINESS: The City Manager is reviewing the Mile Marker Press release.

Crosswalk Report – Dr. Kressler is preparing the report.

"Are You Ready" – PSAC is co-sponsoring this event with Greenbelt Homes Incorporated (GHI). The event will be held September 28, 2014 from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. Dr. Kressler said that she will touch base with Chris White. Dr. Kressler is also putting together a budget request for "Are You Ready" event costs and PSAC shirts.

NEW BUSINESS: Fraud and Identity Thefts – PIO George Matthews and Sergeant Donovan addressed PSAC concerning the recent credit/debit card fraud related to the Greenbelt Co-op Grocery Store. Sgt. Donovan said at least 100 customers' accounts had fraudulent chargers. 95% of the victims went to the Co-op. Sgt. Donovan went on to say that some victims did not file a police report. They received their new cards and unauthorized charges were removed. Sgt. Donovan stated the responsibility for the unauthorized charges are that of the financial institution.

Since the identify theft, the Co-op is no longer accepting credit and debit cards, as a result business has slowed down. The Co-op will not accept credit and debit cards until they know their system is secure.

Sgt. Donovan said that the Secret Service has now taken the lead in the investigation. It is believed that someone hacked the credit/debit card numbers, sold them and then made credit cards with the stolen numbers.

Mrs. Comproni stated there needs to be rules which are consistently followed when accepting a credit card transaction. Merchants need to be educated to check the customers' identification before accepting a payment by credit card.

Dr. Kressler said that perhaps PSAC could educate the public and most vulnerable citizens. PIO Matthews stated that he just did a Fraud Seminar at Green Ridge House which was well received. Mrs.

Comproni said that our senior citizens need to be educated for “phishing”. She believes Greenbelt is now a target.

Dr. Kressler suggested that PSAC consider doing a community forum. Mrs. Comproni thought it would be a good idea to put tidbits in the News Review. PIO Matthews said he could work with Mrs. Palau to put information on the City’s web-site.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2014.