

Castellammare Community Meeting
17850 Tramonto Drive Pacific Palisades
(the home of Aly Montes and Randy Bernstein)
September 23, 2014

to address the recent rash of burglaries in the neighborhood

Approximately 150 neighbors attended, both from tract 8923 (the Mesa) and lower Castellammare.

Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore of the LAPD attended, and Norman Kulla, Senior Council for Councilman Bonin.

Minutes:

1. Options were reviewed for securing the area:

A. Gates or Kiosks at the entrances: Kim Clary had talked to the City regarding installing gates. The representative from the City said this process was nearly impossible and extremely long and detailed. Any closure means that the area is private and the upkeep becomes solely the responsibility of the residents. The HOA attorney was contacted. He said the streets actually are the property of the State. To gate a community is a huge process, if you can even do it, and very expensive. You have to go through the Board of Public Works and Indemnify the City against various acts. And any person can litigate against the gates. The bigger concern is fire. The Fire Department hates gates as it is another obstacle for them.

B. Security Patrols: The three contiguous HOAs; Sunset Mesa, Pacific View Estates and Castellammare Mesa, met last week and are thinking about all going in together on a patrol company that would patrol our three areas 24/7. Estimates for four security patrol companies were obtained and ACS was the most reasonable at approximately \$40 per household per month. The other patrols, based upon participation, were approximately \$60 - \$240 per month per household. What a patrol would do for the cost was reviewed.

C. Video Cameras: at all entrances to the hill. We are looking into this with security companies. This will entail at least two residents allowing us to have cameras on their properties, internet connection, etc.

D. A Neighborhood Watch System: Our neighbor, Bart and Cindi Young, gave a presentation on the ONLERT neighborhood watch system they have developed for our area.

E. Things to do personally to secure your home: Lock your doors and windows; remove vegetation from around your home; get to know your neighbors and watch out for them. exchange contact info, let them know when you will be gone; don't leave valuables in an area where they can be found easily; consider motion detector lights outside; get a

security alarm system and video cameras; go to Crimedoctors.com for more info; sign up with ONLERT.

2. Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore addressed the meeting:

- He said the turnout was great and to keep up the momentum.
- He said a private security patrol is essential LAPD calls it a "Force Extender" because the one police patrol car for the Palisades has to cover 22 square miles.
- Video surveillance cameras and alarms are all beneficial deterrents
- Organized neighborhood watch programs are very helpful. He praised the ONLERT system and thinks it is an excellent idea.
- If something suspicious is spotted, call 311 (or 911 if emergency) or the LAPD direct line to a dispatcher: 877 ASK LAPD (877-275-5273).
- It is very important to be proactive. Get to know your neighbors.

3. Discussion:

- Neighbor Ron Barak discussed the idea of installing Kiosks instead of gates at the entrances to the hill and invited neighbors who are interested in the idea to form a sub-committee with him. Ron said Kiosks may be different than gates and may be easier to install.
- Neighbor Matt Guirguis talked about the larger political issue of not having adequate police presence in this area.

Outcome of the meeting:

1. Neighbors at the meeting held a hand vote and approved the suggestion the we recommend ACS as the preferred security patrol for the neighborhood at \$40 per household per month. More details to follow.
2. We will pursue installing video cameras at all entrances to the area. Due to neighbors currently having cameras on Tramonto, this entrance seems to be covered. We need signs to announce that the area is protected by 24 hour live video surveillance. We need to find the appropriate homes and homeowners that will be willing to have these cameras installed on their properties.
3. ONLERT Neighborhood Watch: information about it has been sent around and many of you have signed up for it. If you have not signed up for it and wish to, email Cindi at cindi@onlert.com or call 310-459-0447.
4. If you are interested in the Kiosk sub-committee, please contact Ron Barak directly at: rbarak@rsb-law.com.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kim Clary
President
Castellemmare Mesa Home Owners Association