

ALLIANCE MEETING SUMMARY August 5, 2020

An Alliance Zoom meeting was called to order at 10 am by Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President. After welcoming all the participants and Alliance members she introduced Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw.

Sheriff Bradshaw urged everyone to prepare for storms and hurricanes beforehand to prevent gathering during the COVID-19 crisis. He supported stocking up on supplies and just putting them away until needed. He advised reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19 by avoiding large crowds and wearing masks. The coastlines are being protected from illegal immigrants who may be carrying the virus.

Captain Rob Sandt of the PBSO and Chief Anthony Tozzi of the PBC Fire Rescue Department both discussed the mutual cooperation during a local tense situation. They both agreed that this cooperation resulted in a satisfactory outcome of the situation. Captain Sandt reported that the crime statistics were down, although car theft is rising. The single most important deterrent to car theft is a locked car. He also noted that car collisions are down 54%. Fire Rescue Chief Tozzi explained the concept of 'Unified Command' which promotes unified cooperation between his department and the Sheriff's department. He also noted that call volume is high.

Dorothy Jacks, Property Appraiser, announced that a tax notice mailing is scheduled for August 20th. It will include a paper explaining the value of each property and any pertinent exemptions. Two public hearings (virtual) will be held.

Supervisor of Elections Wendy Sartory Link confirmed that early voting has begun at 18 sites. There have been few lines; masks, face shields, sanitizing, and distancing are being utilized. The returns of mail voting are good. Since some voting sites are being permanently closed, new cards will be issued to all registered Palm Beach County voters showing the new location for individual voters.

Judge Jeffrey Gillen, sitting Circuit Court judge for Group 16, explained that there are 21 circuits and 67 counties in Florida. Circuit courts settle disputes that amount to over \$30K. There are five divisions in these courts, and the judges deal primarily with attorneys. Circuits also adjudicate appeals. County courts deal directly with litigants who may or may not have a lawyer.

Judge Jaimie Goodman, sitting Circuit Court judge for group 30, deals primarily with civil cases. These cases involve damages that amount to over \$30K. Judge Goodman expounded on the benefits of using Zoom in court proceedings. They are assets in bench trials, allowing witnesses to 'appear' in court from great distances.

County Court Judge, Group 12, Debra Moses Stephens, explained that County Court is in reality is a 'Peoples' Court'. It functions to solve disputes and civil cases that amount to less than \$30K. People can either obtain the services of an attorney or can choose to represent themselves. If one prefers to represent him/herself there are references to educate how to successfully do that. The majority of County Court cases involve traffic infractions that result in injury, misdemeanors, and domestic violence.

Before adjourning the meeting, Lori announced that the Alliance would be appearing before the Palm Beach County Zoning Commission tomorrow, August 6, to oppose the application by McDonalds to build a store on W. Atlantic Avenue and Legends Way. She has written objections from hundreds of residents who live in the area who oppose the project because it would negatively affect them and their way of life.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Submitted by

Carol Klausner, Director

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations