

ALLIANCE MEETING SUMMARY Sept. 2, 2020

Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President of the Alliance of Delray, called the Zoom meeting of the Alliance to order at 10:00 am. She informed the members that, unfortunately, despite significant opposition from the Alliance and members of the community, the Palm Beach County Commission approved the application by McDonalds to erect a 67 seat restaurant to be open 24 hours a day with 2 drive through lanes. Only five of the seven member commissioners attended the meeting, and the vote was 3 to 1 approving the project. Mayor Kerner voted against the project. The vote for the 24 hour operation passed 3-2 with Mayor Kerner and Commissioner Weiss voting No to the 24 hour operation. The McDonalds will be able to operate 24 hours a day, however, deliveries will not be allowed between 11 PM and 6 AM and there will be extra landscaping buffering the adjacent community. At this point the Alliance will work to try to lessen the negative impact that this will have on the surrounding communities. Lori also announced that a face mask, imprinted with the Alliance name, will be mailed to every President and delegate of the Alliance.

Captain Rob Sandt of the PBSO announced a decrease in the crime rate. However, a top priority is reducing scams that frequently prey upon senior citizens. He warned against giving out debit card numbers on the telephone. So far this year 141 people have been scammed to a loss of about \$493,000 in west Delray Beach. Several arrests have been made. He also cautioned about distraction crimes in both Costco and the Dollar Store. Thieves work in pairs; one person distracts and a partner takes wallets.

Chief Anthony Tozzi, head of PBC Fire Rescue also warned against distraction: that of drivers, especially senior citizen drivers. He specifically cited people eating and/or texting while driving. He advised that everyone avoid distractions and pay attention to their driving. Chief Tozzi did say that the number of calls were down slightly, although falls of the elderly are still worrisome. These falls are often caused by interactions of medication. He recommended that medications be discussed with personal physicians.

John Secreto, Chief Nursing Officer of the Delray Medical Center, was the next speaker. Mr. Secreto outlined many of the steps that are being taken to keep both staff and patients of the hospital safe. These include universal masking in the hospital, protective gear for all staff, monitoring the health of the staff, limiting entry into the hospital, and isolating rooms and separating COVID rooms from non-COVID. They have created an entire COVID unit of rooms which are separated from rooms that accommodate non-COVID patients. Many tactics have been used to reduce exposure and increase containment. Fortunately, the number of COVID patients is now 25% of what it had been. Mr. Secreto encouraged people who delayed an 'elective' procedure to schedule it before it could become an emergency. Do Not Wait.

Anne Gannon, Tax Collector for Palm Beach County, was the next speaker. Her office is enlarging its call center. Many issues can be handled by telephone; in-person visits are by appointment only. At some point the transformation to all appointment only business model will be completed. For now, all COVID precautions are being adhered to. Ms. Gannon stated that renewal of driver licenses should occur 90 days prior to the birth date printed on the license, not the last day of that month. All services of her office can be accessed at www.pbctax.com or (561) 355-2264.

Next month's Alliance meeting will be held via Zoom on October 7 at 10:00 am. Topics for the day will include 'Legislation; Past, Present, and Future' for Sober Homes and Human Trafficking. State Attorney Dave Aronberg will be leading the speakers.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Submitted by

Carol Klausner, Director

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations