

## The Alliance of Delray Residential Associations Meeting August 2, 2023

We “zoomed” our meeting again in August but will start our live meetings on Wednesday, September 6th at the South County Civic Center, Jog Rd. Across from Morikami. Our very impressive Insurance Panel will lead discussions about how the swift raises in HOA and COA Insurance are affecting us and our communities. Senator Tina Polsky, Representative Kelly Skidmore, Mayor Gregg Weiss and others will speak on these expenses. Audience questions will be accepted.

Our Meeting was called to order at 10am by our President, Dr. Lori Vinikoor, and she reminded us that there was an Florida Department of Transportation. (FDOT) meeting this week. A synopsis was sent out on e mail with links to Atlantic Avenue information. Lori then introduced our special speakers.

Captain Rob Sandt of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBCSO) stated that this is an obviously hot and crazy summer. Car burglaries are on the rise and gangs are coming up from Broward County as well as Delray. This is happening in every community in Delray Beach, gated and non gated. The thieves break windows if they see something in the car that they want. Again, Please LOCK YOUR CARS and do not leave anything visible on the seats. Also, keep your car fob in the house but away from the doors and windows. Wrapping it in tin foil is a strong deterrent for the thieves that use fob readers. For those of you with guns, DO NOT LEAVE THEM in your cars.

Rt 441 has been the scene of drag racing. The police have been cracking down on this very dangerous sport, not just the drivers but the crowds watching this event can be hit and killed. There have been 182 traffic stops and 107 citations were given out in July. Also 25 criminal citations. 5300 traffic stops to date. School is starting soon, and you will see empty school buses learning their route. Please slow down. Traffic is tough. Our Sheriff's Department is alert and aware of our needs.

Our next speaker was Captain Bill Stansbury of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR). This hot weather is causing many issues for all of us. Stay Hydrated, lots of fluids. Try not to stay out in the heat for long, especially 12 to 3. The Fire Rescue Dept is enlarging Battalion 14 with more year round staff. New stations are being established near Lyons and Atlantic to help with all the residents moving here.

Senator Lori Berman spoke about the return of the Legislature in October. She spoke of Hurricane Season which ramps up in late August, early September. Please check your Hurricane supplies and see where your evacuation center is if you need to leave home. If you stay at home, check your water and food supplies. At least a week's worth! Also, if you have a bathtub, you can fill it with water for flushing, or, if not there are many collapsible buckets on line. They are flat for storage but pop open when needed!

Vice Mayor Maria Sachs spoke about our safety issues and the fact that it is a lot safer due to a higher number of Law Enforcement present at group destinations. She, just returned from a meeting of The National Association of County Commissioners in Texas. Each day was 110 degrees F or higher all day. Sidewalks felt like they were heated! Florida felt comfortable after that! FDOT meeting next week. Big vote in October. It is for Funding of Libraries and Museums.

Our next speaker was Karen Brill, Vice Chair of the School Board. Great news. Park Vista in West Boynton near Lantana is open and is totally state of the art! PBC has hired over 1000 new teachers from all areas and walks of life! Very diversified group of people. Filling the needs for our diverse community of students! Also, be aware of the trial runs of school buses, learning their routes. With School starting soon, keep your eyes open for the students walking to and from school. Slow down and drive responsibly.

Our featured speakers for this meeting were Dorothy Jacks, PBC Property Appraiser, and Anne Gannon, PBC Tax Collector. The topic was about Your Property Taxes and Property Appraisal. Dorothy Jacks said that we will be getting notices of proposed new taxes. There is also a millage rate and value of your home. This equals your property taxes. One side of this notice has proposed new taxes. Check the Green Box in the corner of one page. This has the proposed taxes and phone

numbers of the tax people if you have any questions. The blue side, market value of your home/condo is yellow.

Homesteading is important as it saves you money. There is a table and representative to help you at our in person meetings! Widows and widowers can also take advantage of special reductions in their taxes. General questions, call 561-355-3230 or email to [PAO@pbcgov.org](mailto:PAO@pbcgov.org). The office is in Delray Beach, at the corner of Atlantic & Cumberland next to the PBSO District 4 office.

PBC Tax Collector Anne Gannon told us that she accepted an award, Tax Collector of The Year. This is an honor for our County. This office receives over 19,000 calls in a week. So many are from new drivers with questions, as they relocate from N.Y., N.J., California, Pa. and Mass. Top 5 States. Drivers licenses are the top call center questions. The expectation is that on-line business will continue to increase at Motor Vehicles. One of the biggest problems, booking an appointment. People book two or three to see which one works for them, other callers experience long waits for an appointment due to this. In the PBC Appraisers budget, 52% goes to the Sheriff's Budget. This helps due to the huge increase in our population! Money is also given to Tourist and The Arts Commission Development. For further information and questions, call 561-355-2264 or email [pbctax.com](http://pbctax.com).

Our meeting adjourned at 10:50am. See you for our next general on Wed. Sept 6. At The South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Rd. (across from Morikami).

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Goldberg, Director