

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations
Meeting Summary February 7, 2024

President Lori Vinikoor Opened the meeting at 9:25 AM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the special guests were announced. President Vinikoor announced that dues are due. Also, the Annual Breakfast will take place on Friday June 21, 2024 at a local country club. All attendees received copies of current legislation and contact information for our Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation. This information will also be sent via e mail following the meeting.

Chief Bill Stansbury provided a Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR) update. Battalion 4 encompasses the Delray Beach/Boynton Beach area. Station 49, a new fire rescue station, has opened at Flavor Pict and Lyons Roads. This month, in Battalion 3, a new station will open at the corner of Le Chalet Blvd. and Military Trail in Boynton Beach. Station 45 located near Linton Blvd. and Jog Road is the busiest station with 650 calls last month which amounted to about 20 calls a day. In all of Battalion 4 last month, there were 3510 calls. In January, PBCFR answered 13,782 calls.

Today's breakfast was sponsored by Brightstar Nursing Care.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw was the keynote speaker and provided a "Palm Beach County Update." His presentation can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/P7KReRHfe5g> Sheriff Bradshaw has led the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) for 19 years. The PBSO handled 1.2 million calls for service last year. The Sheriff covered three major issues and explained how the PBSO is handling them. The first is antisemitism. What began as the distribution of flyers, the PBSO is now handling large groups of protesters. He explained that real-time intelligence information aids the PBSO in combatting criminal activities and preventing school and mass shootings. The next topic covered was immigration and our borders. There are gangs from countries including Venezuela attempting to do business in the United States. The PBSO carefully polices the coastal borders and many people attempting to enter illegally from the Atlantic Ocean are caught and returned to their origin. The Sheriff mentioned the 1.5 million "got-aways" that the Country is facing and the 85,000 kids unaccounted for and who may be used for human trafficking. This is a high-priority issue for the PBSO. The third major issue discussed was Mental Health. Sheriff Bradshaw provided the audience with updates on all of the PBSO mental health programs and services offered to the public when dealing with family disorders, homelessness, criminal activities and other crises. The Therapy Dog program has been an immense success. These dogs are provided free of charge by The Big Dog Ranch. The dogs are brought on the scene after a crime and they assist in helping victims calm down and open up to the officers. They also go into the community with police officers to hospitals and senior centers to show their kindness.

At the meeting, attendees were able to meet the Therapy Dogs, and view the instruments and robots utilized by the Bomb Squad, and get up close to the Mounted Unit with the Clydesdale horses, Motorcycle Unit, and S.W.A.T. vehicle. See photos.



President Vinikoor announced that because of voting machines which will be present in the South County Civic Center auditorium, the next meeting of the Membership will be held in THE MORIKAMI Museum and Gardens Auditorium 4000 Morikami Park Road Delray Beach (Across from the South County Civic Center). Jennifer Cirillo, Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Director will be speaking. Topic: New Ideas for Revisions in the Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) to accommodate the needs of the diverse and changing population of Palm Beach County. The meeting date is Wednesday March 6, 2024. Doors open 9 AM. Meeting begins at 9:30 AM. Refreshments will be served and all Presidents, Delegates, and Alternates will be allowed entrance to the Museum and Gardens immediately following the meeting.

Submitted by Sylvia Borrellie, Director