



SAVIN ROCK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.
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To: SRCA Unit Owners and Residents

Date: November 18, 2008

From: SRCA Board of Directors

Re: Security and Safety

On November 6 members of the Board's Security Subcommittee met with Officer Angelo Moscato of the Crime Prevention unit of WHPD. The meeting was prompted by recent vandalism of cars on SRCA property and other incidents causing security and safety concerns. The good news is that the perpetrators of these incidents have been apprehended and arrested.

Officer Moscato laid out a framework for what a community like SRCA can and should do to enhance security and safety on its property. He discussed our situation as being similar to other water front communities and residential areas in and surrounding West Haven. He noted how SRCA has already implemented some of his recommended security measures and was pleased that we are taking steps to implement additional measures in the near future. The following points were discussed as a road map for SRCA:

1. **Lighting** - Officer Moscato emphasized good lighting is essential to providing a secure environment to the residents of our community. He was pleased to hear we are moving forward with the UI to install new lighting on our property which will enhance coverage in parking lots, driveways and courtyards. Further details will be sent to unit owners as soon as cost and proposed start dates have been established. As we have previously advised, we will experience significant cost savings on this project by partnering with the UI to install the lighting in our parking lots. The cost to the association will be for installation in our courtyards. **While we do not yet have all of the details, we suggest unit owners plan on an assessment of approximately \$1100 to be due by March 30, 2009.** Residents wishing to see lighting similar to what we plan to install on our property can visit Orange Woods East off Rte 34 in Derby. This was also a "Light the Night" project with the UI. The Board also encourages unit owners to install sensor lights on outdoor lighting in entryways. This is a fairly inexpensive means of providing lighting to the area directly in front of doorways without having to leave outdoor lights on.

2. **Strategic Enclosures** – Officer Moscato commented on the importance of landscaping, gating and fencing to create a boundary between residents and non-residents walking through easement areas and around our perimeter. He noted that our current landscaping and fencing, particularly along the boardwalk, at our entrance, and along Washington Blvd., is a good start but encouraged us to close up gaps with further landscaping and fencing. The Board has established a fencing subcommittee to look into installing further fencing and gates at strategic locations on our property. Such a project would proceed in phases for budgetary reasons.
3. **Surveillance** – Officer Moscato reported that some of our neighboring associations have installed surveillance cameras on their property. Board members have met with several security firms who walked our property and who have been asked to provide us with cost estimates to design a surveillance system for us based on our priorities. We are currently considering the entrance way, back of high rises near dumpsters and parking lots. We will also look into whether we can combine installation of such a system with our lighting project and perhaps install the system on some of the light poles.
4. **Resident Vigilance** – Officer Moscato could not emphasize more the importance of residents being vigilant and aware of their surroundings. Enclosed are stickers which he asked us to pass out to all residents to place on your phones. These have the number of WHPD (937-3900) and the emergency 911 number on them. Residents are encouraged to call the 937-3900 number to report any suspicious activity. You should not be shy about making such calls. You should call the emergency 911 number only when a crime is being committed or in an emergency. Also, attached below are some Personal Safety Tips provided by the WHPD.
5. **Police Patrols** – Officer Moscato believes that police patrols, while important, should not be viewed as a primary deterrent for illegal activity. He noted that, by putting in place the measures outlined above, it assists the police department in performing its job. Nonetheless, we asked whether he could request a more visible police presence at or near our property in the late evening and early morning hours which he promised to look into. (When asked about placing patrol cars within our boundaries he noted that police cars have difficulty navigating through our property because of poor lighting and the concern that they will run into someone or something!).

We were encouraged by Officer Moscato to have an ongoing dialogue with him on our security concerns and plans.

PERSONAL SAFETY

HELPFUL TIPS FROM WHPD ON HOW TO AVOID BEING THE VICTIM OF A CRIME

AWARENESS

Personal safety starts with Awareness . Always be aware of where you are, and what is going on around you.

- 1.) Don't let yourself be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Don't walk, or drive through high crime areas at night.
- 2.) If possible avoid traveling alone, use the buddy system. Remember that there is safety in numbers.
- 3.) Park your vehicle in a well-lighted area, and do not leave any valuables in open view. "Place them in the trunk"
- 4.) When walking to your vehicle, have your keys ready, and check the interior to make sure no one is hiding inside.
- 5.) As soon as you get inside your vehicle lock your doors, start your engine, and leave. Don't sit there waiting to be a victim!
- 6.) Do not allow yourself to be distracted by a cell phone conversation, or the car stereo. Be aware of who is around your vehicle.
- 7.) It is always better to be safe than sorry, and trust your intuitions. If you don't think that you should trust someone, don't.
- 8.) If you think you are being followed, drive to the nearest Police or Fire Department, or open gas station.
- 9.) Always take the elevator instead of the stairs. If there is a suspicious person in the elevator, exit and wait for the next one.
- 10.) Avoid public parks and beaches at night. Criminals use the darkness to aid them in criminal acts, and to escape.

COUNTERMEASURES

- 1.) Advise the police of your suspicions. Report suspicious people, or activities to the police, because you can help prevent a crime from occurring.
- 2.) If you are being robbed, give the robber what he wants, "money, jewelry, etc." Immediately call the police and give them the best description.
- 3.) Prevent being abducted or a victim of sexual assault. If the predator has a gun or other weapon, and you are not under his control "RUN". A running target will only be hit 4 times in 100, and even then it is more likely not to hit a vital organ. RUN and fight to stay alive.
- 4.) If someone tries to grab you, fight back! Yell, scream for help, bite, kick, and gouge their eyes out and fight to stay alive.