

Community Watch, Pinehurst, NC

1 MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2015

A. **Location Village Hall, Pinehurst: At 7:10pm**, Doug Tuxbury called the meeting to order. Attending were approximately 50 citizens, including Police Chief Phipps and two officers.

B. **Police Report:** Mr. Tuxbury reported that our Community Watch (CW) program was very effective both in terms of preventing crimes and its participation levels. He introduced Chief Earl Phipps who gave a crime statistics for Pinehurst.

1. **Pinehurst is the #1 safest community in the state**, due to a great part because of the CW.
2. **See Something, Say Something**, is what it is all about. He encouraged our audience to spread this message and to notify the Police Department whenever we see something suspicious. There are 23 PD officer and employees who are here to serve us. Five per shift work for us to patrol, investigate, and halt crime. They received over 12,200 calls in 2014--not all were crimes. Police conducted 630 investigations, of which 80 were unfounded. About 30-40 open cases exists.
3. **Two types of crime categories exist:** Part 1 crimes/violent have either person or property damage. Part 2 crimes are typically those such as DWI and narcotic arrests. The mindset shift toward early reporting and prevention is key.
 - a. **Part 1 crimes:** In 2013 there were 2 violent, 18 property crimes/larceny. In 2014 there were no violent crimes and 10 property crimes.
 - b. **Part 2 crimes:** In 2013 there were 21 total. In 2014 this rose to 39, attributed in part to increased drug arrests brought about by better identification.
 - c. **2015 year to date:** Police have responded to over 7,000 calls (3 violent/assaults, 7 property crimes). Drug arrests are down for the year due to the work of officers and investigations. Arrests have also decreases.
 - d. **Command Control Analytics** computer program is used by officer to collect, report, and gain real time data about calls and crimes in the area. It allows all officers to examine crime demographics and types in more depth.
4. **Citizens Patrol** is a group of volunteers who work with the PD on such things as traffic control, park and Greenway patrol. Participants attend a weekly class for nine weeks to prepare. Contact Chief Phipps if interested.
5. **Anti-theft Dots** is an innovative and new way to mark ones property, and in case of theft, enabling officers to return it to the rightful owner. Pinehurst will serve as a pilot site for the company. Participation is voluntary and more information will be forthcoming. Smaller than a grain of sand, property owners apply the dots in a variety of ways from painting to "ghost labeling" (press and peel off the label, leaving the dots behind). The dots are not able to be removed with solvents. Pinehurst Police officers will be trained and then will be able to scan items they believe are stolen. The scan will identify the registered owner via a national data base. Costs range from about \$20 on up, depending on the type and amount of dots purchased. Items that owners can tag include boats, golf equipment, jewelry, art, heirlooms, etc. Local stores may be selling the Anti-theft dots in the future.

C. **Community Watch Update by Doug Tuxbury.** After thanking Chief Phipps and the Pinehurst PD for their great service and impressive outcomes, he acknowledged and thanked all the CW block captains and citizens. "Ownership of our community" is key to our continued safety. Mr. Tuxbury introduced himself as a volunteer who started serving as the

Chairman in May 2015. Since then, 200 new members have joined. Prior to this role and move to Pinehurst, he served 22 years with the Secret Service, including White House detail and SWAT team, and then 12 years with the DEA. The focus was on deterring crimes and being proactive, a similar mission as the CW—*See Something, Say Something*. For the CW block captains, this can be helped by spreading the word about keeping property up and applying safety measures such as outdoor lighting, stopping newspaper delivery when out of town, trimming hedges around windows, closing garage doors, etc. Mr. Tuxbury said he would continue to send us safety tips as well as crime reports. He works closely with Chief Phipps on his communication and protocols and clears it with him before it is finalized.

1. Spreading the word about CW and his vision. Currently, Mr. Tuxbury is attending community meetings and spreading the message via radio segments. His goal is to get the information out to as many people as possible and to have all 15,000 Pinehurst resident involved in the CW program.

2. Block Captains Call-to-Action. Currently, we have no centralized way to track the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of members of the CW—those in our neighborhoods who serve as our eyes and ears, other than the Block Captains. All Block Captains, please collect this information for your neighborhood blocks and when requested send it to Mr. Tuxbury. He will record it into a central data base and use it for communication.

3. Email blasts directly from Mr. Tuxbury to the CW participants will be used to spread information more quickly. Many of our neighborhoods do not have CW block captains, and some block captains do not share the crime report and safety messages they receive from the Chairman. By using the Pinehurst Village email system, Mr. Tuxbury will be able to do this more effectively and broadly. The Block Captains will need to help to spread the word to those who do not have email, continuing to maintain the goodwill relationship-building, enrolling new members, and safety monitoring within their blocks as they currently perform. Currently, Mr. Tuxbury is hand entering the data and spending about six hours a day in his new role. Several Block Captains expressed their disagreement with the Chairman as being the only one to directly distribute emails to citizens while several others, including Chief Phipps, expressed their support of his decision.

a. Other comments and suggestions from the audience included: 1) add to the email blasts an 'unsubscribe' or opt-out link for those who do not want these emails, 2) obtain names and emails from neighborhood associations, 3) use the Village website so interested citizens can enroll themselves, 4) create a CW Facebook page, and 5) use QR codes.

D. Mr. Tuxbury thanked all attendees and adjourned the meeting at 9:05pm.

E. **Action Step:** Block Captains, please submit the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails (see C-2 above) of your block participants when requested. Continue to spread the word and enroll new CW members.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Dolgan, CW Block Captain, 10/08/15