



**Old Las Palmas Neighborhood Organization
Fall Meeting
Thursday, November 4, 2010
5:00 – 7:00 PM
O'Donnell Golf Club**

www.OLPNO.com

MINUTES

More than 60 Old Las Palmas residents enjoyed a neighborhood meeting under the stars on a balmy Palm Springs evening. They were joined by representatives from the City, the Police Department and Maxwell Security and a guest speaker to hear an update on the state of the neighborhood and to participate in discussion of a subject important to all: Neighborhood security.

- City of Palm Springs: Councilwoman - Ginny Foat; City Manager - David Ready; Dir. Of Neighborhood & Community Relations - Lee Bonno (née Husfeldt)
- Police Dept: Chief David Dominguez; Lt. Abe Tokiera; Patrol Sgt. John Cabrera; Patrol Officer Don Dougherty
- Maxwell Security: Denise Bunker; Steve Otto

Guest Speaker: Chuck Brobeck - former Police Chief of Novato and Irvine; Consultant to the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC).

After an enjoyable cocktail hour catching up with returning neighbors and meeting new ones, Board Chair Peter Mahler led off the meeting with introductions of guests and neighbors. He then reviewed the goal of the meeting: to be solutions oriented, to address concerns and bring about positive outcomes. His brief updates included:

- Membership: there were 158 members contributing to the organization in 2010; renewals for 2011 were encouraged at the meeting or by mail using the renewal form provided with the agenda. Non-members and those not having renewed for 2011 by the end of November will receive a reminder letter and invoice by mail in early December.
- Communications: The Organization has implemented a monthly "Fast Facts" newsletter distributed by email to provide residents with current Palm Springs city news and other information affecting Old Las Palmas.
- Medians (Beautification): The medians renovation project is about 95% complete and fully paid for. Work continues to further improve medians on Mission @ Hermosa, East and West via Las Palmas and Chino. Approximately 60 residents contributed to the medians project with major funding from Jackie Autry and George Gund. Peter thanked all of the donors plus Karen Moran and Bennett Puterbaugh for their leadership, skills and dedication to this project.

- Neighborhood Considerations: Residents were encouraged to be thoughtful of their neighbors when arranging landscaping and construction work to minimize weekend noise whenever possible. The 6 ft. easement in front of most homes in Old Las Palmas is the responsibility of the owner to maintain. Paving it requires a permit from the city. Finally, residents bordering Belardo and Patencio were encouraged to contact Bob Cook to discuss an issue of importance to that area.

Security Committee Chair Rick Moran then introduced Chief Dominguez who gave a comprehensive report on city-wide safety. Fundamentally, Palm Springs is a very safe city that has seen significant decreases in property (down 33%) and violent (down 21%) crimes during the last few years. Crime data may be tracked on the Department's [website](#). The Chief is a firm believer in using technology in the prevention of crime and pursuit of criminals and insists on a high level of professionalism from his officers and staff. PSPD is participating in a valley-wide effort to crack down on gang activity. Constructive criticism is always welcome.

Lt. Tokiera introduced Patrol Officer Don Dougherty who was filling in for the officers normally assigned to the neighborhood patrol (see below). Lt Tokiera spoke to the importance of neighborhood awareness – how the infamous “copper thief” was caught red-handed as a result of a local tip and the fact that crime is quite rare in Old Las Palmas as a result of the active participation in maintaining security by members. There were just over 600 police calls from OLP of which 147 were home alarms, and just 14 residential burglaries this year – very low numbers compared to the rest of Palm Springs. It was noted that while many other cities will no longer respond to alarm calls, Palm Springs Police continue to do so.

Jackie Autry noted that signing on for Maxwell patrol has the added advantage of preserving Police services since Maxwell acts as the first responder to alarm calls, many of which are false alarms that could eventually result in a fine. She urged everyone to encourage their neighbors sign up with Maxwell.

Rick Moran, responding to Jackie, noted that only Maxwell has only 136 subscribers in Old Las Palmas and in Vista Las Palmas combined – 200 are needed to allow for 24/7 patrol service, which is currently limited to the 4 PM to 8 AM shifts. Rick introduced Denise Bunker from Maxwell who described the benefits and services offered with a [Maxwell Security](#) patrol subscription. Cliff Bunch added his appreciation of the patrol service during his home reconstruction.

Rick then introduced Chuck Broback who is the Public Safety liaison to Police and Sheriff's agencies for SIAC to help reduce the number of false alarm dispatches by adopting 'The Model States Alarm Ordinance', with Enhanced Call Verification, (ECV) and alarm technology requirements. Chuck offered some useful tips to homeowners regarding system maintenance to prevent false alarms and also some information about alarm service providers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM