



Suncrest Village Safety Meeting-June 20, 2022

Meeting Notes/Highlights

Speakers:

- Mary Rose Giambrone, Meeting Coordinator, Suncrest Village Property Manager
- Frank Danko, Monitronics Sales Representative
- Al Kisner, former Monongalia County Sheriff
- Chin Orih, co-owner, Mountaineer Protective Services

Suncrest Village homeowners/residents in attendance: 40

Notes:

Mary Rose received cost estimates for potentially installing additional cameras throughout the community. Mr. Danko presented the following estimates:

- Condos: Install four cameras in the garages of all 13 condo buildings; \$5,500 per garage = \$71,500.
- Townhomes: Install seven cameras and related equipment along the upper townhome streets adjacent to Route 705 = \$29,000. Install six cameras and related equipment along the lower townhome streets = \$26,000.
 - The HOA boards are considering these options.
 - Note: There are challenges involved for the proposed townhome project: the cameras, lighting and related equipment would require a power source other than the poles operated by Mon Power. The least expensive solution would be to borrow electric from homeowners nearest to the installation.

Mr. Kisner spoke from his former experience in law enforcement in Monongalia County.

- All branches of enforcement are short-staffed. This includes state, county and the local police. As a result, they are forced to prioritize their responses to calls for assistance. This staffing issue and an increase in criminal activity are national problems. Regardless of the shortage, always report incidents to the police by calling 9-1-1 and, if it's not an emergency, just tell the dispatcher who answers that it's not an emergency. All calls to 9-1-1 are included in a Report Management System that can be accessed by all enforcement agencies.
- While camera and video footage from home security systems may help, it's not easy to identify suspects – especially if they are wearing masks, hats, hoodies, etc.
- Security persons/companies should be considered “observers/reporters”. They are not permitted to be physically involved in retaining anyone. Unless they are caught in the act of an actual



felonious offense, security persons are legally not able to apprehend individuals. There are liability issues involved – even for the police.

- Consider forming a neighborhood watch program at Suncrest Village.
- Answering a question from our audience regarding fingerprinting/evidence gathering from crime scenes: If police do respond to a call and do not fingerprint items, they should. If this happens, contact their supervisors. However, fingerprints may or may not result in an arrest.

Chin Orih spoke about the role of Mountaineer Protective Services at Suncrest Village. Primary responsibilities are to:

1. answer calls to 304-598-5815 from 6pm-7:30am
2. patrol property
3. respond to domestic issues
4. respond to alarms and control dispatch
5. monitor alarms
6. traffic control at the gate and throughout the community
7. deal with disturbances

Key suggestions from the audience

- Add lights on the townhome streets.
- Revisit forming a neighborhood watch program for the community.
- Add mesh fencing on our property along Route 705.
- Hire additional enforcement individuals to sit at the upper townhomes.

Overall call-to-action for residents – Prevention and Reporting:

1. Maintain well-lighted exteriors around your property. Light is the number one deterrent for thieves. Learn more about lighting and other tips for crime prevention in an HOA at <https://cedarmanagementgroup.com/crime-prevention-in-an-hoa-community/>. Please check with our HOA office before installing anything that would alter the exterior of your property.
2. Lock your vehicle and house doors! Do not leave anything valuable in your vehicles or outside your dwelling!
3. If you see something suspicious, **report it** to the police. Calls to 9-1-1 can be used for emergency and non-emergency matters. Also, report incidents to the Suncrest Village office by calling 304-598-5815, 24 hours, 7 days a week. If the situation is not an emergency, please send an email describing the incident, provide details and send pictures/videos, if any, to our office.
4. Gather as much information as possible such as a description of the individual(s), the date and time of day, address of incident, etc.
5. Get to know your neighbors and let them, or someone else you trust, know when you will be out of town so they may collect packages at your door, stagger lights on in the house, etc.
6. Avoid profiling individuals based on the way they look, the way they are dressed or without probable cause.