

CLEARVIEW HEIGHTS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Community Safety Meeting Notes
September 5, 2017

On the evening of September 5, a community safety meeting was held in our Meeting Room. Clearview Heights residents had been notified of this meeting last week by email as well as a notice on our bulletin board.

Present: Karen Burkinshaw, Laurine Ferrarini, Richard Lacasse, Norman Muller, Al White, and 24 residents were in attendance. Our speaker was Detective Matt Costa of the Chicopee Police Department.

Prior to the meeting, Trustees walked around the property with Detective Costa to view the area of the property abutting the park.

Officer Costa spoke about crime in our area and people had the opportunity to ask questions.

The following is a list of important points that came out during the meeting:

- **LOCK DOORS:** The majority of crimes are crimes of opportunity. People are looking for money or things that can be turned into money quickly to support drug habits. An unlocked door is an opportunity to steal valuables.
- Do not leave valuables or packages on display in your vehicle. Hide them.
- If you are expecting a package delivery, either plan to be home or pick up the package at the shipping company. Unattended packages at your door are an invitation to steal.
- Call the police any time a crime happens, even if you do not plan to file charges. This allows police to chart criminal activity and helps determine where additional patrols, etc., are needed.
- When you call police, you can do so anonymously—you do not have to give your name.
- Keep outside lights on after dark: People looking out their windows can see who is walking around so they can distinguish between who belongs in the area and who does not belong. In darkness, all you see are shadows.
- Non-violent offenders are not typically kept in jail; they are free to continue stealing.
- Do not confront anyone. Call the police. You have the right to protect yourself and your family from harm but you should not attack anyone who is simply stealing your property.
- Loud alarms, both car alarms and home security systems, deter crime.
- Barking dogs can help deter crime.
- Fences are not a good crime deterrent. Young people especially will jump a fence rather than go around.
- Be alert and note cars that do not belong on the property. Call the police if you are concerned.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- If you see suspicious activity at any hour of the day or night, call the police first and then notify the Association.
- In an emergency, call police at 911. For non-emergency issues call police at 413-592-6341.

The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m. We extend our thanks to Detective Matt Costa for his valuable information and to Assistant to the Board of Trustees, Al White, for setting up the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman Muller
Vice President