

Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
November 19, 2012

**Discussion To Enhance The Capital Project Entitled Normandy Shores Golf Course
Aluminum Picket Security Fence.**

*Commission Item C4A, September 27, 2012
(Requested by Commissioner Libbin)*

Max Sklar, Acting Assistant City Manager

ITEM #12



COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood and Community Affairs Committee

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: November 19, 2012

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION TO ENHANCE THE CAPITAL PROJECT ENTITLED NORMANDY SHORES GOLF COURSE ALUMINUM PICKET SECURITY FENCE.**

BACKGROUND

Fencing along around the Normandy Shores Golf Course has been discussed for numerous years. Economic Research Associates (ERA) was hired by the City to provide an analysis of the City's public golf course system and development alternatives and market and financial potential. ERA completed their report in 1999. The report recommended installation of a barrier/fence around the Bayshore Golf Course (Miami Beach Golf Club) to limit trespassing, which would prevent residents from using the golf course for other purposes. Although this recommendation was focused only for Bayshore (Miami Beach Golf Club) golf course, the same principles apply to Normandy Shores.

At the time Normandy Shores Golf Course and Miami Beach Golf Club were designed, the City elected not to install a barrier/fence at either course.

CRIME INFORMATION *(Crime data if for 2010, 2011, and 2012)*

The City's Police Department has compiled crime data for the Normandy Shores, Normandy SUD and North Shore/South Shore neighborhoods in order to analyze patterns and determine the needs for additional crime prevention techniques. The following is a summary of those findings:

- Normandy Shores HOA had seventy-seven (77) total incidents (residential & automobile burglaries) over this three (3) year time period. That equals to approximately twenty-five (25) incidents per year. NOTE: In 2012, twenty-two (22) incidents were from June to August.
- Normandy SUD HOA had forty (40) total incidents (residential & automobile burglaries) over this three (3) year time period. That equals to approximately thirteen (13) incidents per year.
- North Shore/South Shore HOA had sixteen (16) total incidents (apartment & automobile burglaries) over this three (3) year time period. That equal to approximately five (5) incidents per year.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC RESPONSE

Normandy Shores HOA

As a result of the high number of incidents in such a short period of time (22 incidents from June to August, 2012), the Police Department implemented the following measures:

- One (1) on-duty resource was permanently assigned to the island on all three (3) shifts, which was in effect until Monday, October 8th, 2012.
- In between calls for service, other on-duty sector units were asked to patrol the island while in service. This directive was for all three (3) shifts.
- Decoy vehicles were deployed by Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Blanco.
- A Homeowner advisory flyer was prepared and distributed reminding residents of crime prevention tips.
- All residential burglary victims were contacted by NRO Blanco and offered a security survey.
- Security Alliance guard house procedures were revised to ensure better documentation of vehicles entering the island.
- The Crime Suppression Team (CST) was assigned to proactively patrol the island. During those times that they were actively working the island, uniform patrol was requested to leave.
- An action plan was implemented that involved Criminal Investigation Detectives working with the area CST Detectives in an effort to apprehend the offenders. This plan included overtime resources.
- HOA was kept informed of enhanced measures

Over the past three (3) years, a pattern has been identified in the Normandy Shores neighborhood where crime incidents appear to increase during the summer months. In response, the following are long term security recommendations proposed by the Police Department for this neighborhood:

- Upgrade the current surveillance system to include cameras that capture vehicle information (tags) and can identify driver's at all three gates. **(Completed)**
- Enhance the access control features of the two (2) unmanned gates. The installation of a control arm bar is recommended to limit the vehicles entering to only one (1). Before this was installed, once the gate was open, multiple cars could enter without any access control. **(Completed)**
- The unsecured, 1200 linear foot area along the golf course next to the thirteenth (13th) hole needs to be secured by a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) compliant fence. This has been recommended in the past and was the subject of a confidential security survey conducted in March 2011.
- Increase staffing and high visibility in the Normandy Shores neighborhood to coincide with the summer break of future years, as a preventive measure, to discourage any attempts.
- A lighting analysis of the island determined that some areas need improvement. Work with Public Works to improve those areas with deficiencies.
- Promote an increase in neighborhood participation and encourage residents to contact police whenever they see anything or anyone they do not recognize.
- Begin a pilot program creating the first National CPTED compliant neighborhood. Experts are being consulted to determine how best to implement this program.

Normandy SUD HOA

This neighborhood experiences approximately one (1) incident per month. Normandy SUD HOA is very active in their community and reports all suspicious vehicles and persons that come within their boundaries. On many occasions, when asked why they avoid that neighborhood, juveniles have responded "because they always call the police on me". This demonstrates a high amount of awareness on the part of the residents of this community and can be attributed to the low number of

incidents. The Police Department has also implemented the following responses for the Normandy SUD area:

- In between calls for service, on-duty sector units patrol the island while in service. This directive was for all three (3) shifts.
- Decoy vehicles were deployed by NRO Blanco.
- A Homeowner advisory flyer was prepared and distributed reminding residents of crime prevention tips.
- All residential burglary victims were contacted by NRO Blanco and offered a security survey.
- The Crime Suppression Team (CST) was assigned to proactively patrol the island.
- HOA was kept informed of enhanced measures

The following are long term security recommendations proposed by the Police Department for this neighborhood:

- Continue to encourage the active participation of residents.
- Promote/teach CPTED principles to the homeowners in order to "target harden" their homes making them less likely targets for crime.
- Continue to research the feasibility of gating the neighborhood to further control access.

North Shore/South Shore HOA

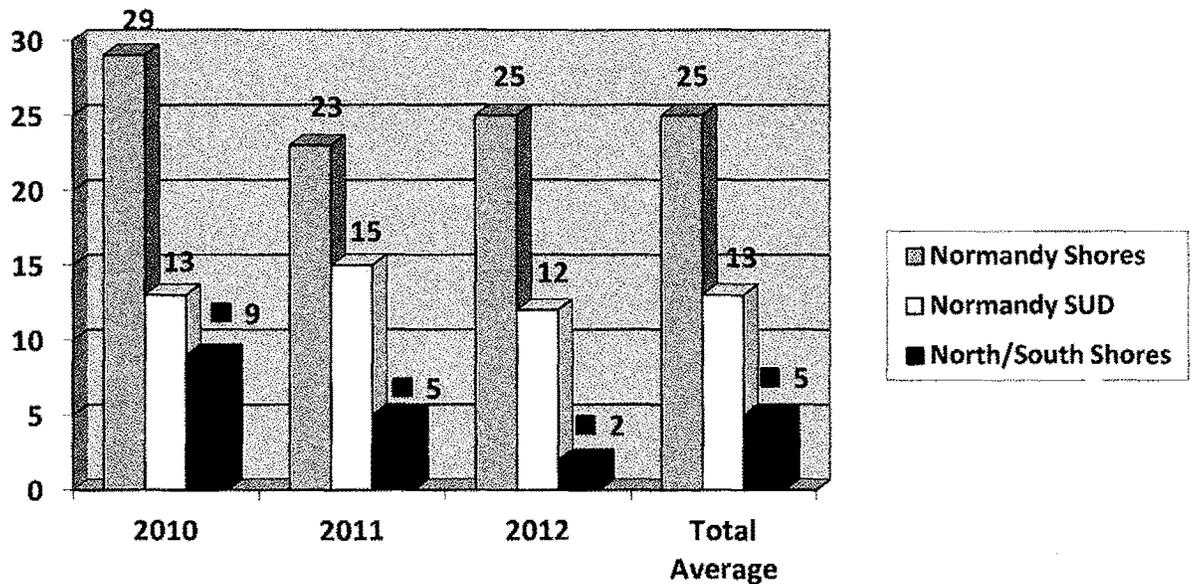
This neighborhood experiences approximately one (1) incident every two (2) months. The North Shore/South Shore association has been recently formed and is just now beginning to take an active role in their neighborhood. Because of the low number of burglary incidents in this neighborhood, the following responses were implemented whenever a trend could be identified:

- On-duty sector units patrol the island while in service. This directive was for all three (3) shifts.
- Decoy vehicles were deployed by NRO Blanco.
- All residential burglary victims were contacted by NRO Blanco and offered a security survey.
- The Crime Suppression Team (CST) was assigned to proactively patrol the island.
- Increased communication with the HOA has begun

The following are long term security recommendations proposed by the Police Department for this neighborhood:

- Encourage the newly formed association to become more inclusive of area building owners and increase participation of owners and renters.
- Promote/teach CPTED principles to the homeowners in order to "target harden" their buildings making them less likely targets for crime.
- Work with Code Compliance Department to address buildings within their boundaries that have violations and require improvement.
- Continue to research the feasibility of gating the neighborhood to further control access.
- Work with Public Works to install pedestrian level lighting to improve the lighting quality of the neighborhood.

Total Incident Comparisons



As evidenced by the above graph, a higher number of incidents appear to occur in the Normandy Shores neighborhood than in the Normandy SUD or North Shore/South Shore neighborhoods. In addition, the incidents inside the Normandy Shores neighborhood are condensed during the summer months. In attempting to deal with these incidents, our response incorporates proactive, reactive and crime prevention techniques.

NORMANDY SHORES GOLF COURSE ALUMINUM PICKET SECURITY FENCE

In March 2011 City Staff attended a Normandy Shores Homeowners Association (NSHOA) Board meeting to discuss a recent rash of burglaries, island security, Police presence other general security concerns. There was consensus to increase police visibility on the island. Concern was also expressed about trespassing from the golf course through the South Shore Drive.

The NSHOA requested a fence along the South Shore Drive side of the golf course behind the multi-family properties adjacent to golf holes 11 & 12. A request was also made for "No Trespassing" signs to be installed around the perimeter of the golf course every 100 feet to provide notice to violators that anyone not playing golf or who are on the course after dark is subject to arrest. City staff at the time reminded the members of the NSHOA in attendance at the meeting that residents who jog, dog walkers or mother with a stroller is subject to the same restrictions, enforcement and potentially arrest. The NSHOA passed a motion requesting the aforementioned items.

A capital budget project request was submitted for the FY 11/12 budget. A \$75,000 project Entitled Normandy Shores Golf Course Aluminum Picket Security Fence was approved by the City Commission in September 2011. Subsequently, a request was made to reallocate a portion of the security fence funding for security cameras at the gates and gate arms.

In mid July 2012, Public Works was on-site of the intended fence installation and marked the property lines which initiated questions/concerns from the residents along South Shore Drive. At the time, the fence markings were placed along the property line, which are only a few feet from the buildings. Aside from the location of the proposed, the residents expressed dissatisfaction that the City had not contacted them to discuss the project.

Based on the concerns that were raised there have been numerous meetings and discussions with both associations. The City also coordinated a community meeting at the Normandy Shores Golf Course on October 3, 2012 in an effort to reach consensus. More than 250 people attended the meeting, along with Commissioner Libbin and members of the City Manager's Office, Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and City Attorney's Office. Unfortunately, consensus was not reached.

The Administration continued to work with representatives of the community in an effort to reach a compromise. As a result, the following approach appears to have support from both the NSHOA and the North Shore / South Shore HOA although subject to additional review as defined below:

- Barrier placed to separate golf course from multi-family homes.
 - Fence/hedge combination placed away from the homes along the natural boundary of the golf course's field of play. Final location to be determined based on a survey of the area.
 - The Fence design will match the 6 foot black aluminum picket fence being installed at Fairway Park.
 - The City's Public Works Department is currently finishing the survey, which will be reviewed by all interested parties and various City departments to finalize the location.
 - The Administration also recommends a delineator at the property line behind the multi-family homes, which could take the form of a low 1-2 ft hedge. The type of delineator has not yet been agreed to. The South Shore Drive residents have requested signage instead of a hedge.
- Barrier to be placed to secure the north side of the golf course.
 - The Administration does also recommend the installation of a hedge, similar to what exists at the Miami Beach Golf Course, along any area around the Normandy Golf Course that currently does not have a barrier. This includes Fairway Drive. Funding for this has not yet been appropriated, but the City recommends requesting as part of the FY 2013/14 Capital Budget if directed by the City Commission.
- Replacement of chain link fence around Fairway Park with a 6' black aluminum picket fence.
 - As was previously stated, funding for this project was already approved in the prior year budget and the City has been finalizing design and pricing with the fence company. There will be two (2) pedestrian gates; one at the SW corner of the park on South Shore Drive (near 75 South Shore Drive) and one near the SE corner where North Shore Drive and South Shore Drive meet. Parks and Recreation will be hosting a community meeting in the very near future to show the community the design and proposed gate locations.
 - Residents of the South Shore / North Shore HOA have requested a monument sign for Fairway Park. This would need to be funded in the future as part of the Capital Budget.
- Better lighting for the neighborhood and golf course.
 - As you know, this is already underway for the neighborhood. The Administration will determine if additional lighting is needed and a budget request would need to be submitted during the FY 2013/14 budget cycle.
- Pursue placement of guard gate at North Shore Dr. Bridge.
 - This item requires much more research and assistance from the City Attorney. If the City Commission agrees this is something that should be pursued, the Administration will work with the residents and City staff to determine if this can be accomplished and a timeframe for same.

Additionally, residents / property owners on S. shore agreed to gate their properties to restrict public access through their properties onto the golf course.

CONCLUSION

At this time, the Administration is seeking direction from the NCAC on the following:

1. How to proceed with the fence behind the multi-family properties?
2. How to proceed with a hedge/barrier around the other unsecured areas of the golf course?
3. Whether or not to pursue research regarding placement of guard gate at North Shore Dr. Bridge?

KGB/MAS/GF

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