

CITY OF NORWALK HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: Michael Geake, Chair; Laurel Lindstrom; Nicholas Kydes; Steve Serasis; Rev. Bolden (7:55 p.m.)

STAFF: Tim Callahan, Health Department Director; Chief Dennis McCarthy, Fire Department

OTHERS: Curtis Sliwa, Founder Guardian Angels; Carlos; Arnaldo Salinas, Guardian Angels

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Geake called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. He asked if anyone was present to comment on anything beside the Guardian Angels or crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Diane Lauricella, representing the League of Women Voters spoke about 23 Platt Street. She recommended that the agenda be formatted to follow the other agendas used by other Committees.

Ms. Lauricella said that she was disappointed at the pace of the exploration of the site. She said that the League of Women Voters never expressed any interest in the City doing any tests. The neighbors are concerned; they do not want this issue to fall through the cracks. Ms. Lauricella asked that this Committee ask for a special appropriation or discuss the pros and cons. She added that there seems to be hesitancy as to the importance of this. The EPA is puzzled as to why they have not heard from the City; there are 223 sites that may be toxic waste sites.

Rev. Bolden joined the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

There were no further comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 24, 2008

** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (REV. BOLDEN)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Geake noted that two new Norwalk Fire Fighters graduated today.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO WELCOME FIRE FIGHTERS DAVID DUSTIN AND JASON MCDEVEN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Firematic Supply Co. – Hurst Rescue Tool System

Chief McCarthy explained the item.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO FIREMATIC SUPPLY, INC., ROCKY HILL, CT TO PURCHASE A HURST RESCUE TOOL SYSTEM AND ACCESSORIES FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$30,198.04. THIS EQUIPMENT IS SOLE SOURCED TO MAINTAIN CRITICAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING CONTINUITY. 80% OF THE COST (\$24,158.44) TO BE PAID AS PART OF A FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT, ACCOUNT NO. 353173-5729. REMAINING 20% (\$6,039.60) TO BE PAID FROM ACCOUNT NO. 0131535790**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Shipman's Fire Equipment – Paratech Rescue Air Bag and Vehicle Stabilization Kit

Chief McCarthy explained the item.

**** REV. BOLDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO SHOPMAN'S FIRE EQUIPMENT CO., WATERFORD, CT, TO PURCHASE A PARATECH RESCUE AIR BAG SYSTEM, PARATECH VEHICLE STABILIZATION KIT AND ACCESSORIES, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$29,419.15. THIS EQUIPMENT IS SOLE SOURCED BECAUSE SHIPMAN'S IS THE ONLY VENDOR IN THE AREA TO PROVIDE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DAS BID LIST PRICING. 80% OF THE COST (\$23,353.32) TO BE PAID AS PART OF A FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT, ACCOUNT NO. 353173-5729. THE REMAINING 20% (\$5,883.83) TO BE PAID FROM ACCOUNT NO. 0131535790**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Geake asked if they could get the rescue apparatus near the South Norwalk train station. Chief McCarthy that the preliminary opinion is that it may be narrow, but they will go back with a truck to be sure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- DEMHS MOU Statewide On-Scene Communications System Box

Chief McCarthy explained that this is a piece of equipment that allows radios of different bands to communicate with each other. This is provided by the State at no cost to the City.

Mr. Kydes said that communications between first responders is important for the public safety, especially in life threatening situations.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF NORWALK REGARDING STATEWIDE TACTICAL ON-SCENE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (STOCS) BOX TOGETHER WITH ANY AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS AND OBLIGATIONS SET FORTH IN SUCH MEMORANDUM**

Ms. Lindstrom asked who would be liable for the equipment. Chief McCarthy said that they have other assets from the State and the State fixes and returns the assets. He said that he does not believe the City would be responsible for repairs.

Rev. Bolden said that it is important to have a means of communications and is in total support of this item.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Geake explained that he neglected to put 23 Platt Street on the agenda.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADD 23 PLATT STREET TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 23 Platt Street

Mr. Kydes said that he spoke with Mayor Moccia about this issue and his position is that he wants to wait for the EPA report regarding their findings. He said that there is no deaf ear on this issue; the issue concerns them immensely. The EPA evaluated the site and he wants to see that report. Mr. Kydes said that this will not fall through the cracks; this is his district and he is very concerned about it.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she and Ms. Lauricella met with the residents and they want to keep this moving along. The idea was to hire a consultant who would want to test the site prior to the meeting. She said that time is running out and the Mayor is aware of this.

Ms. Lauricella said that she heard from the Owner's attorney who asked to move the public information session to June 30th. It is the desire of the owner's experts to be able to answer questions. They suggested scheduling a site walk before that meeting.

Ms. Lauricella said that a review of the documents needs to take place before the public information session. She suggested that she meet with Ms. Brown, Chair of the Ordinance Committee to discuss creating an ordinance regarding toxins.

Rev. Bolden said that they have been paying attention to the site; she played there as a child. She said that the Committee will do all they can to get this matter properly addressed.

Mr. Geake asked Mr. Callahan if he had a sense of the cost for a consultant. Mr. Callahan said that he was advised by Attorney Maslan that this is a DEP matter. Mr. Geake said that if they are going to hire a consultant, this is the meeting where they have to make that decision.

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO REQUEST A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF HIRING A CONSULTANT TO REVIEW THE CURRENT MATERIAL ON THE 23 PLATT STREET SITE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.**

Mr. Kydes said that he is very concerned about this, but legal counsel feels that it is not in their jurisdiction. Mayor Moccia wants to know what the EPA says. Ms. Lauricella said that there is an obligation to do a review.

Ms. Lauricella said that VHB is one of several consultants that Mr. Foley has at the ready. Mr. Serasis said that he played there as a child as well. As a member of the Common Council he has an obligation to serve the people. This should be acted on as soon as possible.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (REV. BOLDEN)**

- Presentation by the Guardian Angels

Mr. Geake said that his intention was to have the Guardian Angels provide a background and explain how local chapters are formed.

Mr. Curtis Sliwa explained that the Guardian Angels were formed 29 years ago. He said they are a volunteer citizen safety patrol. They do not use weapons; they use highly visible uniforms. They do more than report crime. If a crime is in progress, they will

exercise their right to make a citizen's arrest. This has to be executed correctly and that is part of their four stages of training.

If a chapter were to be formed in South Norwalk it would be because the local people want to set it up and be a part of the group. Volunteers receive three months of training and become certified in first aid and CPR. Volunteers have to learn Guardian Angel patrol techniques, which is the most important aspect of the training. They have to know what they are permitted to do.

Mr. Sliwa said that in 29 years and thousands of physical interventions they have never been sued. Mr. Sliwa said that they come in at their own expense; they are independent and autonomous and hope to have a positive working relationship with the City.

Mr. Sliwa described how the chapter was created in New Haven. He said that in New Haven, the Mayor and Police Chief embraced the Guardian Angels and crime dropped in the past year through the efforts of the Police working with the Guardian Angels.

Mr. Sliwa said that because I-95 is attached to the Bronx, Norwalk can have problems beyond its home-grown problems. He said that they are able to work the streets as citizens and come up with tips to help solve crimes. They also provide educational programs to the school systems on how to stay away from gangs and bullies. They also run Cyber Angels which reports cyber crime to the proper authorities.

Mr. Sliwa said that they are not vigilantes; they are an organization that people come to rely on to solve crime problems. He said that South Norwalk is not the worst, but there are problems. Mr. Sliwa said that with redevelopment of the area, the best plans will not work unless public safety is provided. He said that the final decision maker is whether or not people feel safe. He said that they can only help that.

Mr. Sliwa said they have 104 chapters in 12 countries and none of them have been tainted.

Mr. Kydes commended Mr. Sliwa and said that he listens to him on the radio. He said that prior to this administration there were a number of murders in Norwalk and gang activity going on. This Mayor took a number of positive steps along with the Police Chief and as a result crime decreased in Norwalk. He said that we have some gang activity, but there are a number of activities going on in Norwalk to make it safer. He said that no place can be 100% safe. He asked Mr. Sliwa what he could do to make Norwalk better, when we have one of the best Police forces. He said that he had nothing negative to say about the direction Norwalk is going in. Mr. Kydes said that there is a perspective from people that if the Guardian Angels walk the street, it is a high crime area.

Mr. Sliwa replied that there are rival gangs dealing drugs. This is a destination for people buying drugs. People come to Norwalk because it is safer than Bridgeport. Mr. Sliwa noted that the Guardian Angels patrol Disney World and EPCOT and enlightened people want different options.

Mr. Sliwa said that they have a track record of taking people from the wrong side of the law and due to positive peer pressure they become guardians of the community. He said that he sees this as a win win situation. The Guardian Angels are in communities where they have no Police force. The customer coming in to score drugs will realize that that there is no point in coming here.

Rev. Bolden told Mr. Sliwa that she was impressed with their brochure; she said that she did not know they did so many things. She said that she was glad they were unarmed and cooperative with the Police. Rev. Bolden said that she was enthusiastic about what they have to say and appreciated their presence. She asked if they have experience inside of public housing. Mr. Sliwa said that they run programs for HUD in public housing in New York City and in community centers. He said their programs are not Scared Straight programs, which do nothing for kids.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she heard about the Guardian Angels a few decades ago, but did not know they were still active. She told Mr. Sliwa that they've changed with the times and that is a good thing. Ms. Lindstrom said that it would take a fair bit of work to get the word out and seems like a long project. She asked how they would get the information out and bring in volunteers to start working.

Mr. Sliwa said that they help set up the framing. The elements would have to come from within. He said that they would require people to step forward; they believe if people dare to care they will volunteer. He said the volunteers would have constant participation with them. The regional coordinator works with each chapter. He said that they do not come in and find people. They are available if people come forward and will work with them.

Mr. Kydes asked Mr. Sliwa if they provide mentoring programs. Mr. Sliwa said that they have Junior Guardian Angel programs which provide positive roll models.

Mr. Serasis thanked the Guardian Angels. He said that he works with community centers. He said that he was on the fence, but really enjoyed the presentation. Mr. Serasis said that we have a great Police force, but there needs to be awareness that crime has decreased, but less than a year ago, Norwalk was in dire straits. Mr. Serasis said that their initiative is similar to the Guardian Angels and provides outreach to kids. He said that it was supported by the Mayor and the Police, but it dropped off. He said that people fail to realize that it is not summer yet. Mr. Serasis said that he does not know if the Guardian Angels are the answer, but likes their philosophy and what they have to say. He said that he would want to see the Police work with them in a happy environment.

Mr. Serasis said that crime has gone down, but it has not been a full 12 months yet. It waned because most of the kids are in school. The people causing problems come from other areas. Once summer comes, kids can be lured into trouble. It is cyclical. The ultimate decision should be made by the people who live in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Serasis said that the Guardian Angels should not be seen as rivals with the Police. He said that he was glad he listened and is swayed more on the side of the Guardian Angels.

When crime goes down, people tend to forget; Norwalk needs something that is going to be consistent. He added that Norwalk can only put a certain amount of Police on the streets.

Mr. Sliwa said that since the Guardian Angels started in New York City, crime has gone down, but they are still there. He said that you can pour millions into redevelopment, but if someone has a bad experience they will never come here again. The more people project a protective aura, they safer they will feel. He said that there are no Police officers who do not look forward to having the Guardian Angels as backup. A number of Guardian Angels have gone on to become Police officers.

Mr. Geake said that he took a lot of flack by inviting the Guardian Angels, because it was felt that he was saying our Police could not do their job. He said that having the Guardian Angels here has nothing to do with that. The Police do all they can with their limited resources. Mr. Sliwa suggested thinking of them as unpaid consultants.

Mr. Geake asked Mr. Sliwa if the volunteers held liability insurance. Mr. Sliwa said that they have limited liability insurance, which covers them during training and while they are on patrol. He said they have never had to use it. He said that there was a time between 1979 and 1992 when there was no cooperation. He said that he was arrested 76 times and received no support from the City of New York.

Mr. Sliwa said that he was shot by a member of the John Gotti family. In 1993 Mayor Giuliani was elected on the quality of life issue and one of his first measures was to embrace the Guardian Angels. He promoted them into the tenements and his administration helped structure their programs.

Prior to 1993 they had six fatalities. In Washington DC the Police give the Guardian Angels radios and are encouraged to make citizen arrests.

Mr. Kydes asked how the Guardian Angels were funded. Mr. Sliwa explained that they are a non-profit organization and are volunteers. Some of the Guardian Angels who teach programs receive a salary. The average Guardian Angel volunteers 8 hours a week. New Haven provides them with a headquarters to work out of. For maintaining 96 chapters they raised a little more than \$1 million in FY 07.

Mr. Sliwa described the selection process. He said that a lot of people never return their application and some are inappropriate for the position.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Philip DiCostanzo, Norwalk, said that he was embarrassed by the number of people who showed up tonight. He asked what the relationship would be between the Guardian Angels and the Police Union. Mr. Sliwa said that it would be adversarial at first. Arnaldo added that there have been Unions that asked them to come in. He said that this is a grass

roots organization with a track record of success. Mr. Sliwa said that they are not a threat to anyone's job security. He said that their presence leads to more security.

Ms. Martha Dumas, South Norwalk, said that she lives near the Police station, but may not get a patrol car when she calls. She said that she was disappointed that more of her community was not here. Ms. Dumas said that she purchased her home because she liked it. She said that she was part of a crime watch, but it did not work because people were afraid of the drug dealers.

Ms. Dumas said that she has no problem with the Police, and has gotten close to some of them, but they can't get there in time. By the time they arrive, the crime is over. She said that they had the Community Police at the South Norwalk train station and foot patrol Police, but that didn't work. She said the Police are near the restaurants and the trendy shops, but there are no Police after Monroe Street. The taxes are too high to look at what they have to look at. Ms. Dumas said that the Police know when the drug dealers are out. If she calls, she is told no one can come out because they are changing shifts.

Ms. Dumas said that it got better, because she calls, but she puts her life on the line because the dealers know she calls. Ms. Dumas said that she would welcome the Guardian Angels because their presence would clean up the area. She said that things have to happen for the people living in South Norwalk, not SoNo.

Ms. Diane Lauricella, League of Women Voters said that she was happy this Committee is having this discussion. She said that it sounds like the Guardian Angels have preventative medicine through education. Mr. Sliwa said that for some young men and women, their membership in the Guardian Angels prevented them from going bad. He said that they send people out in groups so that there is positive peer pressure. They are now experimenting in Cape Town, South Africa with pre-Guardian Angels.

Ms. Durell Alexander, Norwalk said that she was embarrassed that the Mayor and more people were not here. She said that she woke up a few months ago to a dead body propped up by her condo. The following week there was a murder at Roodner Court. The more eyes on the street, the better off everyone is. She said that she did not know why more people would not welcome the Guardian Angles. Ms. Alexander asked where they went from here.

Mr. Geake explained that the Guardian Angels are an independent group formed from our own people. He said that he wanted to understand what they did and what was expected of the City. He said that he wanted as much information as possible and hoped that if a chapter was formed they would get to the point where the City agencies would welcome and cooperate with them.

Mr. Sliwa was asked if they would go ahead without speaking with the Mayor and Police Chief. Mr. Sliwa said that people who start a chapter would work with the Community. This is a grass-roots organization and hopes that people would let others know what they have heard. As long as they have one good person to work with, they can have a chapter

in Norwalk. Mr. Geake added that Guardian Angels are made up of men, women and all age groups.

Ms. Anna Vecchio said that on behalf of pedestrians, mostly at night, would have felt a lot safer having Guardian Angels on patrol.

Mr. Kydes asked if they were 24/7. Mr. Sliwa said that they are in some big cities, but most of their efforts are at night and on the weekends.

Ms. Dorothy Facina, Norwalk said that there are drugs where she lives. She calls the Police and they come, but she does not see them coming in her neighborhood. She said that the kids go to other areas in Norwalk besides South Norwalk. Ms. Facina said that she can't imagine the Guardian Angels being a negative aspect.

Mr. Sliwa said that they can't be in neighborhoods if they don't want them there.

Mr. Stephen Sapata, South Norwalk, described vandalism and assaults that happened to him during the summer of 2007. He said that if he were grading the Police, he would have given them an F. He said that he wonders what will happen this year. Mr. Sapata said that he just can't move, but would not buy a house in South Norwalk.

Mr. Sapata said that some people say South Norwalk is safe, but not if you leave Washington Street or North Main Street. Having the Guardian Angels would be great. He said that he was disappointed that the Mayor and Police Chief were not here to explain why they would not want the Guardian Angels in Norwalk.

Mr. Kydes said that Chief Rilling sent an e-mail explaining that he was not available this evening. He added that Mayor Moccia said that they should not turn this into a political issue. He said that the Mayor and Chief do care. Four years ago there were eight murders in Norwalk; every city has crime. Our Police force had done a great job. He said that this is not a political issue.

Ms. Joanne Romano, former Councilmember said that there have been murders in Norwalk. She asked about the type of programs the Guardian Angels could give to deter 13-17 year olds from becoming gang members. Ms. Romano said that she has respect for the Police, but some of the kids have no respect.

Mr. Sliwa said that you establish community centers with Guardian Angles as mentors to Junior Guardian Angels. They teach communication skills and self esteem. In addition they expose the Junior Guardian Angels to different things they can do. They teach them how not to get ostracized by their peers.

Ms. Romano said that the perception in Norwalk is that gang members come from the projects; she said that many of them are white, well to do children with parents who work. They believe the gangs glorify them. She asked how to reach them and get programs to reach the entire town. Mr. Sliwa said that they would do outreach.

Ms. Anna Duleep, Norwalk said that she lives on the Wilton border. Two and a half months ago her little dog was shot and killed in her yard. She said that she is a teacher in Bridgeport and could use a Guardian Angel in her classroom. She asked what to do to keep a situation from escalating in the classroom.

Mr. Sliwa said that they used to patrol Father Panic Village in Bridgeport. They teach accredited classes in classroom management and there are quite a few resolutions to her dilemma. He said that the program in the school starts with the entire school staff. A support system has to be built into the school. He said that they run virtual training that may be helpful.

Mr. Vito Vacchio said that he was not here to knock the Mayor of Police. He said that this was a no-brainer. He said that anyone who has read the newspaper for the past 29 years knows the Guardian Angels do the job. He asked what they have to do to make this happen. Mr. Vacchio said that the Guardian Angels were offering their service and asked how we could not take it. He said that this is voluntary and wants it to happen.

Ms. Diane Cece, Norwalk told Mr. Sliwa that he was a hero of hers. She asked Mr. Salinas to describe a typical evening shift. Mr. Salinas said that at least 3 or more strategize where they are going and contact the Police to let them know where they will be. They search each other to be certain no one is carrying anything they shouldn't. They go out and are a deterrent and get to know the people.

Mr. Salinas said that they do not transport Guardian Angels from New York to fix a problem. It is the local people who live here who make it work. He said that they don't get paid and they don't get physically involved unless they have to. They train, formulate, perfect and then go out and do the job.

Ms. Cece told them that they are very brave and the realization is that they are bond to encounter what our Officers do. She said that she would welcome them in Norwalk and thinks is it possible that people would feel safer knowing they were here.

Mr. Sliwa described the three month training program. He added that they have to find people to conduct the training, lawyers and EMT's. There are four quadrants to training the Guardian Angel technique.

Mr. Sliwa said that they are graduating 8 Guardian Angels this Saturday in Halifax. He noted that they have a chapter in Canaan, CT.

Mr. Mark Pearce asked how they would handle a drug transaction. Mr. Sliwa said that the Guardian Angels are told to be the eyes and ears of the Police. Anyone would have to be stupid to do a drug transaction in front of a Guardian Angel. If they see a buyer and a dealer they both get arrested.

Mr. Vacchio asked what would happen if a Guardian Angel was confronted with an assault weapon. Mr. Sliwa said that the Guardian Angels are identifiable. They patrol

areas with high murder rates. If someone thinks you are afraid, they will prey upon you. You have to act cool, calm and collected. He said that post 19936 they have had no fatalities or serious injuries. They take reasonable chances and their training has improved.

Rev. Bolden asked Mr. Sliwa if their chapters provide second language training. Mr. Sliwa said that for those who speak Spanish, they teach them to speak English, but they do not have the time to outsource that training.

Rev. Bolden asked Mr. Sliwa if he has considered pulling in other cultures. Mr. Sliwa said that in the initial 13, there were Blacks, Whites, Hispanics and Asians. In each community they go into they hope to come up with a good balance.

Mr. Kydes said that the Guardian Angels depend upon recruitment capabilities. It is up to the community to be a part of the Guardian Angels. It is not City officials that approve or disapprove it. It depends upon whether or not the citizens want to join.

Ms. Gail Wall, Norwalk said that she travels to SoNo, but in her travels has seen drug deals. Ms. Wall said that she grew up in New Orleans and has seen shootings. During the 1980's the New Orleans Police would take out ads telling women how to protect themselves.

Ms. Wall said that she was aware of the Guardian Angels and respects them. She asked Mr. Sliwa if they would come in if they were not welcomed by the Police and the Community.

Mr. Sliwa said that if they waited for an official invitation, they would not have any chapters. If the people want to join they are good to go. He said that he has been arrested and hounded by the Police, but as long as it is the will of the people to organize he can show them how. Mr. Sliwa said that if people come forward, they can organize and provide a service to the Community.

Mr. Sliwa said that if they were to set up a chapter they would focus around the revitalized areas and provide public safety. The reason people go to an area is because they feel safe and secure, except for people who come in to score drugs.

Ms. Wall asked Mr. Sliwa how long it would take if they were to organize a chapter in Norwalk. He said that from beginning to end it would take probably 5-6 months. They would want to recruit a nucleus of 8 people.

Ms. Wall told Mr. Sliwa that she hoped he would have an opportunity to sit with the Administration; this is a win win situation. She suggested that Mayor Moccia call the Mayor of New Haven to ask how they work with the Guardian Angels.

Mr. Geake said that he called the New Haven Mayor and Chief of Police and asked if they had any problems with the Guardian Angels. They said that they have not had any problems with them.

Rev. Bolden asked Mr. Sliwa if they have had to deal with issues of retaliation. He said that from time to time they have. They had a Guardian Angels headquarters attacked. He said that do not have problems because they do not exacerbate situations.

Mr. Sliwa was asked if they have had to leave cities because the chapter did not work. Mr. Sliwa said that if they do not have local effective leadership, they will close the chapter; they do not bring in outside people.

Ms. Cece asked what the average life span for a Chapter for a City this size would be. Mr. Sliwa said that the average length of a chapter varies.

Mr. Geake asked what people could do who could not physically patrol. Mr. Sliwa said that they could become a mentor. In addition they need people to operate the base station or become outreach speakers.

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

