Recap of Meeting January 28, 2010

HOA Members Represented

Aldea – The Vistas
Candelwood Villas II
Canyon Shores
Cathedral Canyon #1
Cathedral Canyon #4
Cathedral Canyon #5
Cathedral Springs
Desert Shadows RV Resort
La Pasada
Montage at Mission Hills
Rancho Village
Verano/Rio Vista Village

Legal Counsel: Mary Howell, Esq. – Epsten, Grinnell & Howell

Guests Present

Vic Gainer – Chair, Palm Springs HOA Pres. Council
Dave Green
Tom Johnston – Census Bureau – Office Manager Palm Springs Office
Allen Howe – Information Officer, City of Cathedral City
Mark Reconosciuto – Indio Springs HOA, Indio

Welcome: Marilyn Sherman, Moderator

Treasurer's Report – Collections suspended

Guest Speaker – "Census 2010 – Everybody Counts"
Marisa Mendoza, Census Bureau

Marisa distributed a folder containing prepared information on the 2010 Census.

Residents will be receiving an advance notice of the census in early March. They will receive the census questionnaires in mid March. And a reminder notice to complete and mail their questionnaire in late March.

The count date for the census is April 1, 2010. Residents that do not respond will be contacted by Census Bureau follow up workers, Enumerators, during April, May and June in an attempt to obtain as complete a count as possible.

The questionnaire is the shortest in history. The standard questionnaire will have only 10 questions. There is also a long form questionnaire that a statistical sample of residents will receive to collect more detailed demographic information. There is no personal identification information requested such as Social Security Numbers or whether the resident is a citizen.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the

data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure of census data is a fine of up to $250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both. The data is available to the public after 72 years, mainly for genealogy purposes.

Residents should complete their questionnaire at the location they live more than 6 month +1 day during the year, whether or not they are there on April 1st... People with multiple residences will receive a questionnaire at each residence. They should only complete one questionnaire, for the location they live the majority of the year. For their secondary residence, they may mark "zero" in the answer to the first question and return the questionnaire. That residence will probably receive a follow up visit from an Enumerator to confirm the intended response.

Enumerators are locally employed – so they are familiar with the local area. They must complete a 28 question test. Their background is checked and they are fingerprinted. The census Bureau will probably be hiring Enumerators into April. If interested in applying call the Palm Springs Census Bureau Office at 760.992.3140.

The census count is very important. It will be the basis for distribution of State and Federal funds for the next 10 years. Every year more than $400 billion in Federal funds will be distributed to States and Communities based on census data. Also, the census data will be used to determine the number of State and Federal Representatives in the legislature.

Tom Johnston – Office Manager, Palm Springs Census Bureau Office

Tom added that it will be extremely helpful if knowledgeable representatives of HOAs, particularly with gated communities, register their contact information with his office. This will help Enumerator in gaining access to the communities for information as to status of residents.

Allen Howe – Information Officer, City of Cathedral City added:

The count in 2000 for Cathedral City received 58% responses. As a result of that undercount Cathedral City lost $225 million during the last decade. Each person counted in 2010 will bring in approximately $1,000 to the City in State and Federal revenues.

He also said that Cathedral City had the best response rate of all the Coachella Valley Cities in the 2000 census. So the valley as a whole has lost many more millions in potentially available State and Federal revenues for the past decade.

The City has established a 2010 Census Committee of 25 people to try to get the message out for a complete count in the 2010 census.

They are working with the Police Department to obtain locations of concentrations of homeless for the Enumerators to count.

Additional facts and information on the census is available on the Palm Springs Presidents Council website: http://hoapresidentscouncil.com and the Census Bureau website: 2010census.gov

Guest Speaker – "Crime Stoppers"
Detective Sgt. Ed Colon, Cathedral City Police Department

Crime Stoppers is a tool for law enforcement. It provides cash monetary rewards up to $1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.

The public should call 760.341.STOP to report a crime observed within the Coachella Valley. The information provided is entered into a database that is available to all law enforcement agencies in the valley.

They have a Board of Directors made up of 14 business people from valley businesses. Representatives of all valley law enforcement agencies attend the Board meetings.

He will attend community Neighborhood Watch meetings to make presentations and arrange tours of the Cathedral City Police Department on request. Call him at 760.770.0308

Discussion:

In answer to questions Det. Colon mentioned that if a car is in California from out of state for more than 10 working days, it must be registered with California DMV.

Problem with parked cars in HOAs: it was suggested that community rules and regulations should be amended to include language that cars within the community must be "street legal and operable". This would enable citation for rules violations of vehicles without current registration, missing functional components and flat tires.

Mary Howell offered citations from the California Vehicle Code 12265.8 – Towing. To be able to tow a vehicle an HOA must post signs of prescribed size and content and post a stationary vehicle for 96 hours before towing. NOTE: my community has posted signs and may tow a vehicle that is habitually parked in violation of our rules and regulations the very next time it is parked in violation once a violation notice is posted on the vehicle.

Mary also said that with prescribed posting, vehicles may be towed immediately if illegally parked per the Vehicle Code (e. g. in no parking zones, in front of driveways or fire hydrants, etc.)

Mary also noted that new California law prescribes that Board Committees such as Emergency Response Groups be formally appointed by the Board in order to be covered by the HOA's Directors & Officers insurance coverage.

Collection: Mary said that once an owner is not an owner, due to foreclosure, the HOA may assign the debt for collection to one of many collection agencies available in the valley. They often will take the collection on a contingence basis; they take only a percentage of amounts actually collected.

Community Forum
Rita Greenwood – Suggested Agenda Items

Rita distributed a 3 page list of suggested items and requested attendees to provide comments, suggestions and or feedback on their copies of the list before leaving.

Handouts – in addition to those mentioned above

- Brochure "All About the Count" Census Partnership News from Southern California and Hawaii, December 1, 2009.
- Members Code of Conduct for Association Meetings
- Flyer "See Crime, Hear Crime, Stop Crime" Coachella Valley Crime Stoppers.

Website – http://hoapresidentscouncil.com , Click on "Cathedral City"

Next Meeting - Thursday, February 25, 2010 at the Cathedral City – City Hall

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Tom Tousignant, Recorder