

The Neighborhood Crime Watch Town Hall, sponsored by the Dolan Springs Citizen's Committee "C", was well attended at the Dolan Springs Community Center (DSCC) this morning (Saturday, December 01, 2018). Meeting facilitator, Charlotte Kiffer, (also President of the DSCC and member of Committee "C") stated afterward, *"Deputy Perry did a FABULOUS presentation today, to a crowd of over 80 attendees! It lasted 1 1/2 hours. Most of the folks signed in and want follow up, and about 10+ signed up to be on the Crime Watch Board. The presentation was taped and will be available for viewing. There were more people at this event than any DSCC Town Hall meeting!!"* This is VERY good news to a community weary of criminal activity that takes advantage of our limited law enforcement presence.

Prior to introducing the speakers for the meeting, Facilitator Kiffer thanked Supervisor Jean Bishop for attending, and for her recent input at the Arizona Transportation Department meeting in Lake Havasu City. Supervisor Bishop, as well as DSCC Vice President Bob Perry appeared at the meeting in LHC to speak on behalf of improvements to the dangerous intersection at Hwy 93 and Pierce Ferry Road. Bob Perry's excellent letter, read in person at the meeting in LHC, is posted on the DSCC website. **** Supervisor Bishop reported she had learned today that the request for a "flyover" was approved, and that a grant will pay to engineer the project. She said the County is working with ADOT to move it forward.** She explained that a "flyover" is a half of an intersection that will route South Bound traffic on Hwy 93 turning to Pierce Ferry Rd., up and over North Bound Hwy 93. It will be engineered to interface with I-11 eventually. ****CORRECTION: County received a grant to pay to engineer the project, but it will take ADOT approval and major funding to move it forward. ER**

Charlotte then provided a brief explanation of how she, Bob Perry and Bob Waldorf, also Committee "C" members, met with Sheriff Schuster to learn what we as a community could do to get help out here, as speeders on PF Rd. and crime were increasing big time and affecting how we live our lives in the community. Their efforts got Deputy Bill Perry assigned to District 4 full time. (District 4, by the way, includes Chloride, Whitehills, and Meadview, as well as Dolan Springs. There are 2 deputies to cover that entire area, one on duty at a time, and sometimes they are called out of District 4 to cover other areas when needed. Deputy Perry reported that he travels 300 – 350 miles a day! They are stretched thin!) The Committee "C" members also learned from Sheriff Schuster that there are ways the community can help protect itself in lieu of and until more \$\$ can be collected to provide more Law Enforcement. Those included putting cameras on properties to identify thieves, and the Crime Watch program. Deputy Perry, already having done research on Crime Watch, shared information with Citizen's Committee "C" at their last meeting, and volunteered to do a presentation for the Town Hall. Facilitator Kiffer then introduced Posse volunteers Rick Terrien and Ralph McKie.

Charlotte introduced Deputy Bill Perry, and he gave a brief synopsis of his 20 year background in Law Enforcement, overseeing Crime Watch programs, among other things. He explained that citizens are the "greatest tool" in crime prevention. He passionately stated, "I hear you! I live here with you! Come to me if you have a problem." He said citizens MUST come forward to help, and must be willing to prosecute if they witness a crime. He said fear of retaliation prevents Law Enforcement success. He said Dolan Springs is a "good community", and that the community "needs to take charge" to combat crime.

Deputy Perry explained that the Sheriff's Dept. does not run the Crime Watch program, the community does. The community elects a Board of Directors that oversees a number of "Block Captains", who oversee sections of Dolan Springs and who report back to the Board. There can be any number of citizen volunteers (anonymous) who report what they see to the Block Captains. Citizens in this way act as Deputy Billy's eyes, providing information and evidence that gives him "probable cause" to make an arrest. Without that he can do nothing. The Crime Watch program provides an organized coordinated structure for citizens who "see" a crime, to "document and report" it. Deputy Perry asked speakers for the Posse program to attend the Town Hall, as well, stating that the lengthy response for Law Enforcement from Kingman is not just in Dolan. The Sheriff's office is understaffed.

Posse Volunteer Rick Terrien of Valle Vista spoke about the requirements for a person to qualify for the Posse program as follows:

- Can be male or female
- No felony arrests
- Application
- Finger prints taken
- Background check
- No beards (trimmed moustache o.k.)
- 32 Hour academy training (can have here)
- Mobile enough to get in and out of car

He emphasized that the Posse does NOT pull vehicles over, they are NOT Law Enforcement, they ASSIST Law Enforcement. He stated that a combination of Posse and Crime Watch are very effective at curbing crime in the community.

Posse Volunteer Ralph McKie of Kingman, elaborated on what the Posse does:

- Traffic control for emergencies and special events (ONLY place emergency lights are used)
- Private property crash reports for insurance purpose
- Transport prisoners for Sheriff's Dept.
- Participate in parades
- *Property watches (90 day limit, while owner is gone on vacation, etc., will patrol and watch home)
- Speed trailer set up
- Assist boating and search/rescue
- Whatever other tasks Sheriff Schuster asks them to do.

Mr. McKie stated that with 6 people enrolled in the Posse program, each volunteering a minimum of 16 hours a month, qualifies a community for the permanent positioning of a Posse vehicle. He said there will be a training academy taking place in March, if enough people sign up. Levels of training follow:

- Level 1 – graduate the Academy
- Level 2 – Radio accreditation
- Level 3 – FTO

Requirements include, good character and ability to communicate responsibly with citizens. One uniform is issued, to include 1 shirt, 1 pant, 1 jacket, 1 hat. If more is desired, individual must purchase it.

Deputy Perry and Posse members emphasized that the Neighborhood Crime Watch and Posse programs do NOT tolerate vigilantism. DO patrol, watch, get unified, and obey the laws. DO NOT stop and interact or confront. Observe and report only.

Many very good questions were fielded from the audience by Deputy Perry and Posse members, too many to report here. There will be video posted of the meeting. It is highly recommended that everyone who possibly can, watch it. It was a very informative and exceptional presentation.

Other tidbits gleaned include contact information for reporting drug houses, how to request Posse watch of your property when you are going to be gone for periods of time, and how to volunteer for the Posse program.

- Report drug house: Call Sheriff Dept. Dispatch 928 753 0753, ask for "MAGNET UNIT". Can report anonymously
- Request Posse Watch: Call Sheriff Dept. Dispatch 928 753 0753, ask for "POSSE". Make request.
- Volunteer for Posse: Call Sheriff Dept. Dispatch 928 753 0753, ask for "POSSE". Request information.

In conclusion, Deputy Bill Perry emphasized that he will work to help get the Neighborhood Crime Watch program set up. The community will need to get involved to make it succeed.

Reported by: Ellen Reh-Bower, Member, Dolan Springs Citizen's Committee "C"