

Minutes of the El Gheko Neighborhood Association meeting – November 7, 2018

Meeting was called to order by vice president Jackie Theriault at 6:15pm
Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved with no changes.

Sgt. Sean Travers (TPD liaison) presented crime statistics for the last 6 months...

- 750 traffic stops for various infractions
- 19 burglaries (he said this was very low for our size neighborhood)
- 3 stolen vehicles
- 65 reports of suspicious activity

He presented ways to decrease crime...

- Be aware of your surroundings (suspicious people or activity)
- Install lights with motion detectors
- Install cameras

The issue of street racing (mostly on Kolb from Speedway to Broadway) was presented by residents. Most of it is motorcycles. It is at all hours of the day, early morning to late evening. He suggested that we report it so there is a record of it. When possible TPD will try to find the drivers and stop them or, at least, force them to go somewhere else.

There was a discussion about the abandoned house (since 2010) on Kingston. The story is that there was a death in the family (the relatives live in Phoenix). They couldn't determine what to do with it or "bring themselves" to sell the house. Since they have been paying property tax on it for the 8 years, it is not considered abandoned.

A resident says he walks his dog near it a few days a week and has noticed homeless people sleeping inside and outside of the house. He has written letters to Paul Cunningham and other city officials to do something about it. One time he reported it and the police came and chased the people. Then the city called a contractor to come and secure the home. The police stayed until the contractor closed the doors and installed "about a hundred" screws to keep people out. He still sees activity when he goes by.

Kimberly Frie (TPD Supervisor of Financial Crimes Prevention division) presented information about all types of financial crimes, money laundering, scams, counterfeiting, mail theft, ID theft, etc. There are only 6 detectives working on this type of crime for the entire city. Reports can be submitted online at <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/apps/crime-reporting/>. Also, reports can be made online at the Federal Trade Commission web site (<https://www.ftc.gov/>). They maintain information about all financial crimes around the country.

She explained that there are 3 types of scams...

1. Electronic
2. Telephone
3. Face-to-Face

Electronic – DON'T open email that is in any way suspicious. If it is from a known person but you are still not sure, contact them and ask if they sent it. If the wording is unusual or it has misspellings, be suspicious.

Telephone – They usually try to get your sympathy. “My car broke down, please send me money (Western Union)”. I am your granddaughter and am sick, please send me money (buy gift cards and send me picture of the card and then of the number). They can also be very mean and say “I have your son and will kill him if you don't send money or if you hang up the phone”. They want you to act emotionally, quickly so you can't consider what is happening and without talking to anyone. They can have the names of relatives and other info that they can gather online from Facebook, etc.

Face-to-Face – Meet me at the CVS parking lot. The money is turned over and the scammer is gone and will never be found.

She suggests that you check you bank statement every month for fraudulent charges and check your credit rating at least annually (there could be unpaid charges on your record from a stolen credit card, etc.). Go to <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action> to check your credit rating.

There was a discussion of “porch pirates” (people that steal packages left on your porch). The suggestions from Sgt. Travers were to have the package delivered to a neighbor who will be home or use a secure delivery process that Amazon (and maybe others) provide where the package is delivered to a locked, secure storage facility and you are provided the information needed to access it.

The possibility of a neighborhood party to get more interest from the rest of the neighborhood members was presented.

The next meeting will include elections of the officers. Also, if you have a subject you would like discussed or you have one you want to present, please let Tom know.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Minutes submitted by Gerald Tulino, acting secretary.