

Verdera Safety Committee Recommendations

On January 16th the safety committee hosted a well-attended meeting to discuss and vet various ideas designed to increase safety in Verdera. The consensus centered on doing some things now (immediate actions) and some longer term actions we felt would have the greatest impact.

The following is a report of the priorities for the Safety Committee (in rough order of importance):

- **Threat Assessment (Immediate)**: We recommend that the HOA board hire a professional security firm to perform a threat assessment and make specific security recommendations to the HOA.
 - We felt this would be money well spent and would help to ascertain what works at other communities and provide a best practices recommendation for our neighborhood.
 - May also assist with navigating the legal/regulatory concerns with having our own security force.

- **Lake Gate Attendant (*After Threat Assessment)**: The overwhelming committee consensus was that by placing an additional attendant at the lake gate we will secure the neighborhood and prevent unwelcome guests.
 - Most of the criminal activity has accessed the HOA through this unattended gate.
 - Currently it's not really possible to stop people from tailgating into the neighborhood, but an attendant would go a long way to preventing this from happening.
 - The idea would be to have the attendants interact in real time via audio/visual system at Monte Azul and Ladera gates so that all 4 access points would necessitate real time interactions to enter the neighborhood by vehicle.
 - We'd like cameras placed on all ingress/egress areas (walking paths extra) with a feed to the guards so that they can address any suspicious entry.
 - Consider modifying our gates to include a dual gate (two gates on entry) to prevent tailgate entry. Reverse spike strip on exit will prevent people from coming in the exit.
 - Ideally we'd see the gates manned 24/7.
 - Exact cost to HOA unknown, but with increased # of homes recently it may be more feasible to budget than in times past.

- **Show of Force (Immediate)**: Install signs indicating that both gate areas are under video surveillance and that a guard is on continual patrol.
 - The committee felt this may be a deterrent to some future events and was a low cost option to try and detour crime in the short term.

***Note:** These ideas were the consensus of the Safety Committee, however we may amend these recommendations if the professional threat assessment suggests a modification or better course of action.

- **Smart Cameras (*After Threat Assessment):** We would recommend that the HOA install cameras that are able to detect license plate #s and track all auto ingress/egress to the HOA.
 - One company to consider is FlockSafety (www.flocksafety.com). Their solution tracks all vehicles in the HOA and determines if they are regulars or visitors.
 - They edit out down time from the video so if there's an incident it's easy to get the information needed for law enforcement. Suspicious activity is flagged by the system and notice is sent to the HOA (ex: a non-resident vehicle that enters the neighborhood and drives around for several days).
 - Cost is roughly \$2K per year per camera. They are solar powered and transmit data via LTE/Cell signal rather than hard line.

- **Enhanced Lighting (Immediate):** We'd like to have the HOA increase lighting at the gates and possibly within the neighborhood. Criminals don't like light.
 - There was acknowledgement of possible regulatory issues with more lighting within the neighborhood, but we have some street lights that are currently out and in need of replacement.
 - Would also recommend that we pursue better lights (such as LED) that would be more cost effective over time and perhaps provide more light.

Other Ideas From Our Meeting (not necessarily actions for the HOA Board or in any order):

- Send an email to all residents informing them of any security related incidents that have occurred inside HOA areas (possibly have Leanne handle this).
- Encourage all neighbors to utilize the "Nextdoor" app and/or create neighborhood Facebook groups so that residents can communicate concerns quickly and efficiently.
- Encourage neighbors to get to know each other better and to have emergency contact info for all immediate neighbors.
- Encourage residents to organize into a neighborhood watch and/or volunteer patrol.
- Encourage residents to be more observant and vigilant when a tailgater or strange car enters the HOA (members shared stories of following cars that would drive the neighborhood and then leave without stopping, or people who would be sitting watching an area and would leave after being asked what they were doing).
- Look into securing our perimeter and/or monitoring all ingress/egress areas
- Encourage all neighbors to install security cameras on their homes with coverage to include the street in front of their home.
- Have a representative from Verdera lobby the Lincoln PD to increase their presence in the area and/or allow a volunteer officer to patrol.
- Hire a security company to patrol streets during hours that Verdera gate attendants are not on duty.
- Have gate attendants patrol without lights on so their location is not as obvious to perps.

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