

**MEETING WITH MARINE POLICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011 – 6 P.M.
ABOARD THE VESSEL *CARRIE B.*, SLIPS 82-84
NORTH SIDE OF RIVERWALK**

Marine Advisory Board Members

Barry Flanigan, Chair
James Harrison, Vice Chair
Robert Dean
F. St. George Guardabassi
Frank Herhold
Norbert McLaughlin
Bob Ross
Tom Tapp
Bob Welch

Staff

Andrew Cuba, Manager of Marine Facilities
Jonathan Luscomb, Supervisor of Marine Facilities
Levend Ekendiz, Intracoastal Facilities Dockmaster
Matt Domke, Downtown Facilities Dockmaster
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Marine Police

Sergeant Kevin Shults
Officer Rob Hoffman
Officer Brian Meo
Officer Will Phillips
Officer Richard Rhodes
Officer Quentin Waters

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m.

Chair Flanigan explained that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to introduce Sgt. Kevin Shults to the marine community and to provide a forum for any concerns relative to marine issues in Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Flanigan introduced Sgt. Shults at this time. Sgt. Shults stated that he is a longtime Fort Lauderdale resident, a 26-year employee of the Police Department, and has served in a supervisory capacity for the past 10 years. He introduced the Marine Unit members present at this time. Sgt. Shults advised that the expertise and knowledge of the City's marine industry and community are greatly valued by the Marine Unit, and encouraged them to reach out to him with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Ross advised that there is a small marina in his neighborhood at which 50 gallons of fuel were recently pumped from a boat. He asked if Sgt. Shults had seen incidents such as this before. Sgt. Shults said this is not an unusual occurrence, and can be an accident or may have been caused by a responsible party.

Mr. Ross said the specific incident was the result of a theft rather than a spill. Sgt. Shults advised that there is a great deal of similar theft in Palm Beach County, particularly from farm machinery. He added that there is also an enormous amount of electronic theft at present, noting that some of the same vessels have been robbed more than once.

Mr. Ross asked if the stolen equipment is mounted into a console, or if it is separate. Sgt. Shults said entire boards have been stolen in many cases, as this is often easier than detaching the electronic equipment piece by piece.

Mr. Guardabassi stated that the Rotary Club is sponsoring the New River Raft Race, which will be held for the first time in 16 years. Sgt. Shults also advised that the Marine Unit is prepared for Winterfest, and noted that this year's Boat Show had been a wonderful event with no major issues aside from the weather.

It was asked whether vessels on the river would be turned around prior to the Raft Race. Mr. Guardabassi said the race would begin at noon and last approximately 2 ½ hours, and would extend from Esplanade Park to Huizenga Park. He estimated there are 17 rafts signed up to participate, and did not expect the race would take very long to complete.

Steve Jordan, private citizen, suggested that vessels could be stopped where the New River meets the Intracoastal Waterway, as this would allow boats to get out of the channel. Sgt. Shults replied that this was possible, but pointed out that this is a large area, and he did not expect that more than one vessel would be assigned to this particular area to advise boaters of the race. He cautioned that it is possible some vessels may get past this location and might not be aware of the race until they reach the Riverwalk area, as the Marine Unit's resources are limited.

John Wilson, private citizen, suggested that a security call on channel 9 could be made every 15-30 minutes if the mouth of the river would be blocked. Sgt. Shults said the Coast Guard would issue notices, although these would not go out continuously.

Patience Cohn, representing the Marine Industries of South Florida, stated that there would be an upcoming meeting in June 2012 of all parties interested in the hurricane flotilla on the river.

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There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]