

Appeals Committee Annual Report

The following is the Appeals Committee Annual Report covering the period May 2009 through and including April 2010. The information contained herein is based upon my review of the monthly "Agenda Reports" maintained by Melanie, and based upon my general observations of the monthly meetings.

Melanie Patrick took over the administrative position from Susanne Cordeiro in the fall of 2009. Melanie works well with the committee, and she acts professionally and appropriately during the monthly meetings. She has been respectful of the homeowners on all occasions that I observed, and is an asset to the association. The community patrol officers have acted respectfully during the monthly meetings, and Vince Schiavi, Community Patrol Account Manager and Gene Gilmore, Community Patrol Watch Commander, are always very helpful.

For the period May 2009 through and including April 2010 there were a total of 297 violations appealed/disputed, 226 of which were sustained (i.e., homeowner/guest found guilty). This is a 76% sustain/guilty finding. Of the 226 matters that were sustained, 34 had the fine reduced. The matters that were reduced by the committee amount to 16% of the overall matters sustained.

While these figures are substantially the same as compared to the prior Annual Report for the period May 2008 through and including April 2009 (82% sustained, 13% fine reduced), the total citations appealed/disputed reduced from 451 violations to 297 violations, a 34% drop. This decrease can be attributed to "better" ticket issuance by community patrol and the fact that Appeals Committee members are knowledgeable of the POA rules and regulations..

The Appeals Committee continues to implement the Board's policy of not reducing fines, except in extraordinary circumstances. For example, fines are generally reduced where a one-time "guest" was cited and never called-in subsequently by the homeowner (who allegedly has had no further contact with the "guest").

Traffic School has become an option for homeowners for most moving violations. All homeowners are encouraged to attend the Traffic school offered through the POA as an affordable and educational alternative to costly fines.

From time to time different members of the committee have offered constructive suggestions to patrol officers relative to their interaction with homeowners, the issuance of a citation, and proper note-taking within the citation. This is generally done in the presence of Vince Schiavi at our monthly meetings.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Appeals Committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at abragolf@ca.rr.com.

Sincerely,

Steven Rahmanan, Esq.