



**Watch – CERT Team (Est. 2008)  
SCCE - Harlingen's premier NW & CERT  
Team.**



***Lights On -- Lock Up and Look Out for each other!***

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**Minutes: (notes) Monday, 19 July 3pm, Retzlaff Hall  
Meet 'n Greet, Fellowship, Refreshments and...**

**Special Guests:**

**Harlingen Police Department:**

Assistant Chief of Police - Miryam Anderson,  
Sgt. Charles Fechner – Special Services District Representative, NW Liaison

Deputy Chief: Alfredo Alvear and Daniel Villarreal (old friends of NW & very supportive)  
Officer Jose Lopez is newly assigned to us and will head up the Citizens Police Academy with Sgt Sal Carmona (starts 13 September 6p – 9p x 8 weeks)

Officers Orlando Gonzalez, Moreno and Bravo are our District Representatives and usually come to our meetings (and will be working with us for National Night Out).

Citizens Police Academy - Carolyn Floyd (& Lenore & Mary Ellen)

Some of these Police Officers are familiar friends and have been present at our meetings and teaching sessions and several were new to us.

Assistant COP Miryam Anderson had each HPD Representative speak on their position with HPD. Q & A followed.

Officer Orlando Gonzalez is our DR. His team wants to do a surprise Crime Prevention Walk for us. They will come in here and observe our “practice”, then come back with a report, and then we can have a discussion. Don't get nervous – we are just checking on safety and security issues that should be common practice – like leaving your golf cart keys handy for a Bad Guy to drive off, or leaving your garage open with all kinds of temptation. They will also be checking our vehicles for the little orange Happy Face stickers – indicating this vehicle belongs here as opposed to a vehicle who may be observing his next unfortunate victim. This practice is called *Crime Prevention Thru Environmental Design*. It is a three-day course we have taken on how to protect our stuff from the Bad Guy's dreams and excursions.

The Citizens Police Academy will stand up Class 43 on Monday 13 September at 6pm 'til 9pm and I hope many of you will attend this informational program (from Penal Code to Handgun Safety, Traffic, SWAT, Gangs, Court procedures and more. It a great and 'free' opportunity. I have applications. Graduation 1 November.

**National Night Out** - is scheduled for Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 6p – 9p

Lon C. Hill Park -- off Fairview Blvd (across from the Harlingen Auditorium and adjacent to the Harlingen Police Department). We are signed up with Officers Bravo and Moreno and I hope everyone from SCCE comes for a visit as a show of support.

Many LE Agencies will be represented as well as other groups like ours. There is plenty of food and entertainment and educational booths.

Sunshine Neighborhood Watch - CERT will have a table – under big trees – showing off our program. Bring your lawn chair. We will have literature on our NW & CERT activities and will enjoy your fellowship and comradery. Chief Anderson will try to muster the other six NW teams in Harlingen so we can have a great time with them and all the Harlingen residents. It's a big deal and lots of fun.

**Harlingen Fire Department – CERT Team (Station 8)** 109 Firefighters are responsible for Fire & Rescue Services. Admin Staff: Fire Chief Rafael Balderas.  
CERT Team: Asst. Chief Ruben Balboa Bill Snyder CERT Team Leader, Mary Ellen Swartz & Caroline Floyd - members who were present.

The CERT Team should be starting up CERT Training too now that stuff is opening up. Learn how to “hold down the fort until professional help arrives”. This is a nationwide approach to volunteer training that responders can rely on during disaster situations. Some topics – Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Light Search & Rescue, Team Organization, Disaster Medical Ops and more. This is a 20-hour course over two weekends with a fantastic Fire House BBQ to follow.

Oh – Chief Darrell Loftus HFD wants to do a fundraiser for us (NW & CERT) Finger-Lickin' Chicken will happen but let's plan a date. We supply the chicken (NW) and the Firefighters do the cookin' – slow roasted on a grill (yum-yum) – out by our Gazebo. We – you help plan to provide the rest – usually potato salad, cold slaw, bread, pickles, jalapenos, dessert etc. (We shall strongly consider COVID-19 precautions).

Harlingen Fire Department sent their monthly report. It is posted on our NW-CERT bulletin Board in the Library (where your Patrol Calendar is).

### **City of Combes Public Safety – Police Department**

Chief of Police - Patrick Quill Sgt Brenda Lopez

While they may be small in numbers, they are huge in being our advocates. Under usual circumstances we would have done an NNO, a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and maybe several other projects with them for the City of Combes. (Don't forget, half of SCCE is in Combes).

BTW – got a thank you note from the Chief – he was happy to be welcomed here and meet us and for a moment to say they are strongly behind our NW and very supportive of our community and work very tight with HPD for fending off the Bad Guys.

### **South Texas EMS and Paramedic Service**

Pete Moreno, Director of Support Services & Training and introduced two EMT Instructor -Trainers for the local EMT Program at the College.

Pete gave a run down on ambulance procedure, and what we can do to be prepared in case of. He is aware of our RED Envelope with our current health history and is an advocate of our “Be A Buddy” program (which is when your family asks my family to come over in case of....).

He was happy to see we had an AED and have “classes” periodically on First Aid, CPR and Stop The Bleed (STB) etc. He is aware of our three STOP THE BLEED bags in the Workers Shed, the Woodworkers Shop and in the library. They are to be used when needed. You can ask for training. (See Lenore). They are not to be used in place of a First Aid Kit because they have special STB products which we expect to be there.

There will be an ambulance “Area fam” this Monday as an opportunity for drivers to get familiar with SCCE, Encore RV Resort and Lakeside streets and addresses.

**Sincerely,**

**Lenore J. Combs 956 245 1276  
Coordinator NW-CERT**



**Monday, 3 August 2021, 6p – 9p, Lon C. Hill Park**