

## **Long Neck Strong – On Air with Dan Gaffney**

### Meeting Minutes

*May 5, 2017*

: John and Mary Ann Matyjewicz, Lynn and John DeBarge, Paulette Rappa, John Reeser, and Charlie Pollard

*Location:* Jimmy's Grill, Rehoboth Beach

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Long Neck residents are bannng together to stand up for the community and stop the crime that has terrorized citizens, closed businesses, and hurt the reputation of the once peaceful Sussex County town.

'Long Neck Strong' is a newly formed group made up of Long Neck residents who're tired of the crime that is destroying their community. The group appeared on "The Dan Gaffney Program LIVE at Jimmy's Grille in Rehoboth Beach," where 'Long Neck Strong' President John Matyjewicz explained the purpose of the group and how the crime continues to progressively get worse.

"We want our voices heard and to make Long Neck a better place to live. In the past two weeks, there's been about seven or eight robberies, some of them at gunpoint," said Matyjewicz. "We're just looking to get more police presence and more community involvement. People move down here to get away from the crime, and there's a new Wawa on Route 24 and pretty much at any given day you can go in there, sit there for a minute, and watch a drug deal going down."

Charles Pollard, the owner who closed his Long Neck-area restaurant 'Kick n' Chicken,' after a string of several burglaries, has now joined the group and is speaking out the crime that plagues the community.

At some point, we've got to rely on the goodness of mankind. I feel that Long Neck, in a sense, has become the wild wild west," explained Pollard. "We all are operating without a strong police presence, which is not the police departments problem, they are not there because they're not trying to do good job, they are. Just like the wild wild west you don't get justice until the sheriff comes to town, and you don't get justice when the sheriff is 17 miles away at any given moment."

Local political activist Paulette Rappa has also joined the community group and explained how the problem is much deeper than just a policing issue

This acceleration of crime is a symptom, it's a symptom of something much more underneath it, which is the drug epidemic," Rappa explained. "So, it's not just the policing that the community needs, but the resources to address how do we get those individuals and families that have been splintered by this epidemic the help that they need to become thriving, productive members of the community, and we sorely lack that down here in Sussex overall, and that is one of the major problems that is propelling this crime."

Long Neck Strong will be holding a group meeting, which all are invited to, on May 17, at the American Legion Post 28 on Route 24, beginning at 6:30 p.m.