

Security Measures in Effect

By Marco S. Bodellini, TCA President

Recently, there appears to be a ramping up of inflammatory rhetoric nationwide designed to incite anger and retaliation between organizations to the extent that violence has become a certainty, not a mere possibility. In addition, a number of other events have occurred more recently, such as the cowardly mass shootings at the Tree of Life synagogue, and numerous attempted mail bombings occurring throughout the United States, which appear to be politically motivated. And on the virtual side, cyber-hacking activity and Facebook activity took center stage with respect to the U.S. elections.

The TCA has been no exception, with threats and inflammatory rhetoric being leveled at members, officers, and the Terrytown Civic Association. One of our businesses, Joe's Café, had their brand damaged due to an unauthorized Facebook post from a non-TCA member, who was allowed to join the TCA sponsored Facebook page. In addition, threats were sent to the TCA website administrator with regards to our continued support for one of our advertisers. Moreover, the TCA website itself became the source of persistent attacks, designed to gain access for unauthorized purposes. Furthermore, the TCA sponsored Facebook page was taken over by individuals not authorized to be administrators. Finally, non-members and agitators, have shown up at meetings, and followed officers out to their vehicles afterwards, demanding that their personal agendas be addressed immediately, in front of other member issues, without previous communications and or concerns for the safety of others.

In response to the above activity, the TCA Board has elevated the security of the TCA website. Personnel actions have occurred to remove individuals from their positions who have displayed multiple instances of unacceptable conduct towards fellow TCA members and board members. Additionally, members will see an increased presence from law enforcement, including but not limited to members of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, which will be present some time before, during, and after general membership meetings, to ensure members may safely arrive, attend, and depart from meetings. Please be advised our security will not remain after for individuals who loiter for extended periods of time after general membership meetings. We ask that all individuals that attend our meetings conduct themselves in a civil, non-threatening manner before, during, and after our meetings while on the Golden Age Center property; otherwise, they will be asked to leave. Those who seek to disrupt our meetings, and or remain after being forbidden, will be addressed accordingly.