

A Conversation with Police Chief Quarles, Palisade, Colorado

September 9, 2015

This discussion is about shoplifting and the strategy for intervening, interviewing and possible arrest of suspects. We discussed the Bazar alleged shoplifting incident of Summer Solstice 2015.

- 1) Strategy and protocol for dealing with suspected shoplifters, or other illegal activities. Conduct a pre-solstice meeting with the sheriff's office representative, 3HO Management and the security team management to develop a written protocol document that outlines procedures and actions to be taken by bazar merchants, solstice security personal, and on-site law enforcement officers.
- 2) Probable cause needs to be established to detain a person for questioning. A reliable witness to the theft or physical evidence is needed to establish probable cause. The merchant and/or security person can detain the suspect until law enforcement arrives. Continual surveillance of the suspect is needed to prevent their disposal of the stolen items.
- 3) Bags and backpacks may be searched for the stolen items, but not the person's clothing. Camp name badge or other ID may be requested. If the suspect has no legitimate reason for being in camp, they are trespassing, and law enforcement may conduct a pat down for officer safety incident to arrest.

Any law enforcement officer may arrest without a warrant any person he has probable cause for believing has committed the crime of shoplifting. Any merchant who causes such an arrest shall not be criminally or civilly liable if he has probable cause for believing the person so arrested has committed the crime of shoplifting. (NM 30-16-23 Reasonable detention)

Ram Dhan Singh
970-261-7502