

Results of Tybee Neighbors Website Survey Questions

10-08 Mini-Survey -

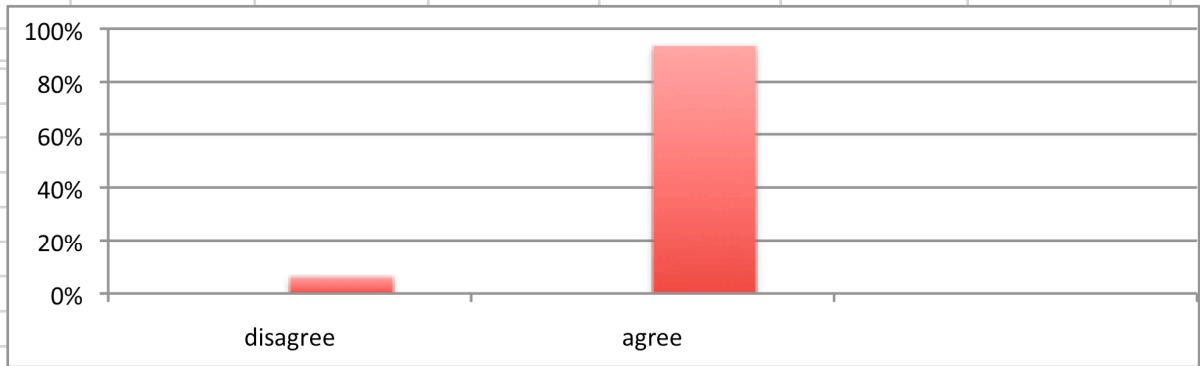
111 responses

Issue #1 --- Survey Anonymity

Background: During the 9/25 Council meeting a Councilman stated that if surveys are going to be presented during Council meetings a list of names and addresses of participants should be validated by the City.

Statement: Tybee Neighbors should be allowed to maintain the confidentiality of participants in surveys presented to City Council.

disagree	agree
6.4%	93.6%
7	103

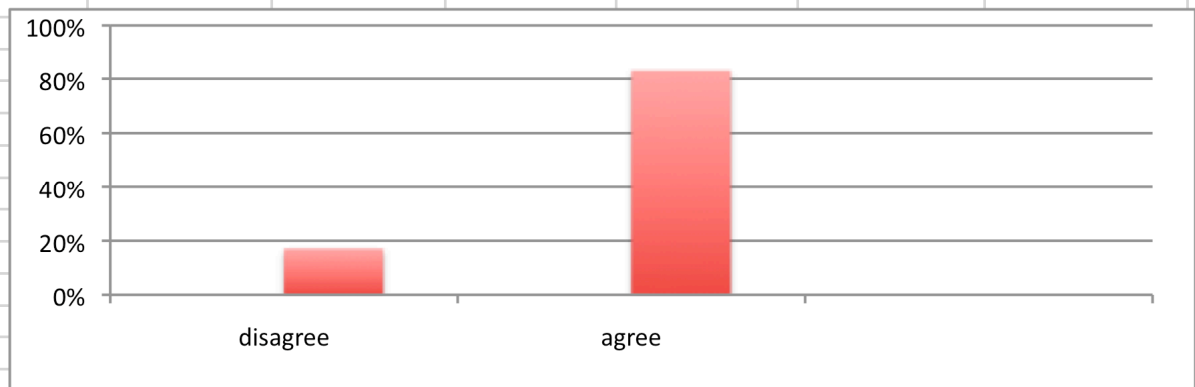


Issue #2 --- Neighborhood Watch

Background: Tybee Neighbors recently initiated a Neighborhood Watch program for one part of the Island.

Statement: If you would like to explore the possibility of expanding this program in your area, please respond by clicking on agree and explaining your general location in the comment area below. Please also describe any incidents you're aware of that did or could have posed a threat to people or property in your area in the comment section. Please do not include specific names or addresses.

disagree	agree
17.0%	83.0%
15	73



Responses to Tybee Neighbors 10-08 Mini Survey

After 111 responses: (Not all respondents answered both questions)

Question 1: Disagree: 7 Agree: 103

Question 2: Disagree: 15 Agree: 73

On # 1 - most surveys (like the hundreds being done right now for the Presidential campaign) are blind and they are well-accepted.

2 - I have no position on this one.

Several years ago I had a refrigerator delivered from a company that may or may not still be in business in Savannah. I should have been suspicious when the older gentlemen did all of the heavy work while the younger man looked around. Two days later during the middle of the day several "fencable" pieces of electronics in the downstairs apartment of my home were stolen. Granted that my part of Tybee is basically deserted in the middle of the day with most folks at work. It would have been good however to have had curious eyes on the look out for such suspicious activity especially since there was no other visible resident presence.

I agree w/ council man wolf in that IT IS UP TO THE COUNCIL TO "WEIGH" THE RESULTS.

online surveys are easy....but not necessarily accurate. If you put a on line petition and want the council to accept it, it should include the names and addresses of anyone who signs it.

ONE MAN / ONE VOTE period.

The First Amendment to the US Constitution states: Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech I don't think our local government should either.

Feel free to use my name, address, phone number, serial number, and email address. I could give a flip if you share it to satisfy the intrusive nature of some of the council members.

Non validated surveys should not be allowed to be presented council meetings. Validation should include names, addresses and comments by all that participate.

Concerning the statements of City Council members on requiring a list of names, etc. of survey participants:

This is an attempt to both silence and intimidate citizens, especially citizens who do not agree with the majority of the city council.

Furthermore, how will the city "validate" the names and addresses of the survey participants??? At what cost to taxpayers?

It is a very scary thought that our city government would "validate" anything concerning our political/public opinions. It smacks of George Orwell's "1984".

The Gang of Five have made me ashamed to be called a citizen of Tybee.

Although I don't have a problem with my name and email address being disclosed, I do have a major problem with council demanding that every person must be identified to have their voice heard. Just think about WHO may wish to remain anonymous....city employees (just because they are employed by the city and can't speak publicly doesn't mean they don't have a voice), the spouses and families of city employees (may fear reprisals against family member employed by the city), business owners (openly challenging council could hurt their business), bartenders or wait staff (disagreement could equal poor tips), members of their church (many don't want to mix politics and religion), social friends and/or neighbors (may like council members individually, but disagree with their politics), architects, engineers, developers, real estate agents, etc (can't take the risk that their opinion will jeopardize their livelihood), and individuals who've witnessed the contempt with which individuals who challenge council are treated. All of the people listed above deserve the right to voice their opinions confidentially and for council to demand otherwise screams of censorship and violates the 1st Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America!

Council is engaging in a classic bullying technique by erecting obstacles for citizens participation. By threatening to require the names in association with Tybee Neighbors surveys, Council is trying to silence those whose opinion is different than their own.

It's my opinion that a lot of crimes are alcohol related or crimes of opportunity. We try not to be targets for crime. We lock our bikes & our cars. It keeps us from being victims.

This council has lost the trust of much of Tybee due to their past actions concerning the ethics ordinance, skatepark, dog park, memorial park plan, elections, shore protection, code enforcement, etc. Mistrust breeds mistrust, so now they do not trust us or each other. I do not mind my name being published but understand why other people would prefer not to be identified. I appreciate the open forum provided by Tybee Neighbors and their efforts to make our collective voices heard. Not being comfortable with public speaking, I express my opinion in writing and allow Tybee Neighbors to submit it to council. I expect

my elected representatives to listen to and weigh the concerns of each and every one of us. It disturbs me greatly that they would be so selective in who they listen to that they would leave the room rather than hear their concerns or mine. The opinions expressed in the surveys should be respected and evaluated on their merits not on the identity of the individuals. Tybee Neighbors provide a service to council, to me, and all of Tybee. They have relayed my comments verbatim, and have been honest and forthright. I, and those speaking for me (Tybee Neighbors), deserve the same courtesy and respect that council desires.

There's nothing more politically polarizing or chilling to public interaction and truthful discourse than for people who are trying to voice opinions freely to believe that public officials are looking over their shoulders and seeking to intimidate them.

Whether or not this is true, once the cat's out of the bag, it might be better to verify all surveys through objective sources than to risk further alienation and deterioration of trust on all sides. Should verification by a third party of the e-mail addresses of local respondents become necessary, the process should be accomplished by non-partisans who will continue to maintain total confidentiality - that way council members will know that survey responses are legitimate, and Tybee's citizens will be assured their opinions have been registered and delivered to council while obvious concerns about privacy rights have been respected and protected.

Neighborhood Watch is an excellent program. Although I am not aware of any recent crime in my neighborhood, the times are changing.
I am west of North Campbell.

I feel very strongly about both issues.

Can I book a ticket on council's power trip? They have already challenged the Georgia State Supreme Court with their drug/alcohol testing fiasco and now they want to take on the US Constitution and our right to free speech! These folks need to come back from LaLa Land and face the fact that their attempt to suppress public opinion is illegal.

maybe all the participants in the tybee neighbors surveys should show at a city council meeting . 120 persons taking their 5 min each should run only about 10 hours.

What?

Why don't you include a tab on your survey page that allows you to identify yourself, if you want, and also send a copy to the council. From their refusal to even listen to our comments.... maybe it might make a difference. I used to

consider these people friends and neighbors. Ultimately, we'd need to have a larger presence at council meetings.

Tybee council forgets that the city hall belongs to the people and not to them. Any attempt to censure speakers at council meetings is a violation of 1st amendment rights.

Neighborhood Watch location: Eagles Nest Drive. A raccoon breaking into a vacant house. While it might appear minor, had neighbors not noticed and contacted owners it could have destroyed the entire interior of the structure causing as much destruction as any vandal.

I have confidence that the information gleaned from the past surveys has been accurate. If someone wanted to skew the data, then there would be many more responses to each question.

Surely the current elected officials are intelligent enough to realize there will be people who disagree with their decisions. They also should realize they cannot stop communication, be it via print, media, surveys, blogs, email, or conversation.

I am on Jones Avenue between 6th and 7th Street.

I say that people should be able to anonymously say what their opinion is due to the fact that hopefully all our council people are honest and good people but for those that aren't because of their positions if they wanted to they could be against you. Hopefully that makes sense and sounds right.

Lets say that in their positions if they wanted to be against something you are asking the council for and they don't like you they could vote no.

I don't feel it is necessary to know the identity of survey individuals, for what? What purpose would that serve? Are the council members going to start calling people that don't agree with them? Are people going to start being harassed because they don't agree with a certain council member? I would be thinking of repercussions(?) if I didn't agree with someone and they were now angry and would try to do something to me and not necessarily physically but you know what I mean.

Lastly if someone calls someone a name, so what, who cares. I am sure I have been called fat names due to my obesity most of my adult life and so what! Heck when I was walking and trying to lose weight cars would scream stuff at me all the time, and??????????????

This question is not a disagree or agree question. Just like typical democrates you fuzzy the issues with crap.

Although my property is located in the middle of off site property owners whose homes are primarily short term rentals, I would be happy to participate in any neighborhood watch that would be appropriate. My address is ---- Venetian Drive.

The area in which I live is relatively quiet. And, we have had little "criminal" activity beyond a loud drunk or two at the rental properties. Most of the problems are of the nuisance type... littering, parking on private property, etc., but little if anything is done to address these issues. But, I'm not sure a "Neighborhood Watch" program would have any significant effect. Most of the permanent residents are quiet and keep to themselves and may view such a program as an intrusion. The Tybee Police Department does an effective job in my view,

although I'm sure they would welcome any assistance when appropriate.

I will not participate in future surveys if it is not confidential. Verbatim confidential feedback should be welcomed by the council - it shows unsolicited positive or negative reaction to their actions.

1. Yes, of course you should be able to keep the identity of the respondents private. Charlie is just feeling uncomfortable because the surveys are starting to show how fed up residents are getting with him and his cronies. Often times the results do not support his and his slates views on local issues. I would not mind my name being published, although I know that many folks on Tybee want to remain under the radar. Good luck with this! I think you guys are doing a great job, and one that no one else seems to be willing to take on. Other groups certainly have a right to do their own survey too, although, I suspect that if residents feel that the group doing them is dishonest and unethical, then they may have reservations about even giving them their name for the purposes of verification.

2. While I like the concept of a neighborhood watch, I'm not really sure it's officially needed out here. I think that we are already looking out for our neighbors

The way this question (in regard to the survey) is presented is the reason some of us disagree with your survey in the first place. The Tybee Neighbors are bound and determined to make this council look bad by the very questions they send out. Maybe the question could read: Should biased, provocative, unscientific and unprovable surveys be allowed to take up City Council's time at the expense of the property owners that are before the council for legitimate reasons? Why don't you pose this question on your survey? I don't have a problem with not being anonymous. Why do you?

Have the option of not being anonymous.. why should it not be a choice?

You are submitting survey results not petitions. If the council wants to ensure that survey results are from direct input of residents, put the issues to a vote of Tybee residents.

I stand by the opinions I express in these surveys and have no problem with my name being listed along with the survey results. However, I would like to feel that I have the freedom to express myself without fear of repercussions.

My husband and I share an email address. He often completes these surveys, as well. While this may look suspicious, it is accurate.

I have wonderful neighbors! I feel we look out for each other already.

Why would anyone be ashamed of their opinion on a particular subject.

I do not mind if you were to give them my name. Maybe you could do a survey of participants and ask who minds being listed?? Does not bother me, this is a way for ideas to be presented to council. I am usually unable to attend the meetings.

Since I do not live full time at Tybee I feel I cannot commit to Neighborhood Watch.

The other invasion of privacy sends shivers down my spine.

I have no problem with the council knowing what statements I make to your surveys. Also, I would be happy to send my replies to your survey to Mr. Brewer personally, since this seems to be a bug in his hat. I own property on Tybee and however small my voice may be, I want it to be heard. I pay property taxes just like your full-time residents, and I am proud to be a part-time resident.

There are bigger issues on Tybee that need to be addressed, but I guess some of the council members feel that they are being attacked by these surveys? If yes, then they shouldn't have run for a public office; talk about wasting everyone's time over a simple survey. Get real.

Theft and vandalism. Jones Avenue.

Thanks for your work; I'm not clear why confidentiality is so necessary-- (except for the fact that our council seems so provincial and possibly retributive)-- but I support whatever your take on this.

Political signs and bikes have been stolen off my property. I have a lot of rentals and properties for sale that stand empty surrounding me.

I live in the Tybee Market area, so we get a lot of foot traffic.

I'm a condo owner on the Island. I only spend about 40% of my time there. So by state law I'm considered a non resident and by that I have no vote or say in how anything is done on the Island. I watch almost every council meeting on TV and many times have heard little comments about "those condo owners" and how we don't count. I wonder if I can just not pay my taxes as I don't have any

one looking out for me on the council. PS - I can't raise my rent to cover the cost of increased water bills as I don't rent my unit, this was a statement from the last council meeting. I'm over 65 but because I'm a "non resident" I can't qualify for a reduced water rate either. I'm just screwed!

We live in the North Beach area. I am not aware of any incidents but think this sort of thing is a good idea. I am not opposed to the release of my name in connection with a survey. I understand that others may not feel the same way.

i think that the city council members are getting above their station, it is a case of the power going to their heads and made them loose sight of the game they should realize they are only there because they were voted in by the people and (not this person) so they can be voted out.

Lighthouse Lane, by the flat bridge

Tybee Neighbors surveys have always been informative, giving the people of Tybee a forum in which to express their views on a number of pertinent topics. The results of this effort have always been shared with members of City Council as another opportunity for them to consider public comments when making decisions. This was a particularly useful and WELCOMED tool during the revision of our long-overdue Master Plan for the City of Tybee. The validity of the process has not been questioned until now. I guess this council doesn't like to hear public opinion when the views contradict their own. To attempt to squelch freedom of speech is a step toward dictatorship and even fascism. How sad for Tybee. Neighborhood Watch is the epitome of Neighbors looking out for each other. We must be aware of our surroundings, help each other during times of threats, and be our Brothers keepers. Thanks for getting this started on Tybee. I hope it works throughout the Island. We live in the central part of the island, near Memorial Park. There are vacant properties that are susceptible to break-ins and squatting, especially during the off-season when these properties are not regularly rented.

It seems to me that our real-estate oriented council is not interested in protecting the only thing that keeps their real estate values up - the shore. Very shortsighted indeed!!

Fort Screven near old Theater and Nursing Homes.

Bicycles have been stolen from front & side yards. outdoor furniture stolen. Nativity scene last Christmas was destroyed by fire (arson-not electrical). Front yard flags stolen

If Tybee Neighbors is expecting to report on a survey that is representative of the residents of our island, it cannot divulge names and addresses. People are reluctant to speak their minds if their names are involved. The majority of the polls reported have not been in favor of ANYTHING this Council has done. Could

this be the real reason for wanting to silence the Tybee Neighbors Surveys?

A neighborhood watch is always good but there are no incidents occurring in my area of Tybee that threaten people or property...at least none that I know of.

northwest corner of Tybee----Sandy Shores---no crimes that I know about in last 7 years

I am not ashamed of my stands on living on Tybee. I challenge the city council members to live in my neighborhood as a resident and not as a business person. If they did so then they would understand why lack of noise control, lack of speed control, lack of control of traffic patterns, and lack of interest in public safety make the residents of Tybee feel like an insignificant piece of crap in the eyes of THE TYBEE ISLAND CITY COUNCIL and other CITY OFFICIALS. I pay an incredible amount in taxes and insurance to get such a poor infrastructure and representation on the local level.

The damage of the couples' home on Jones Ave by a group of very young Tybee Children. Among other lesser bad deeds.

Mid - Island neighborhood

Mr. Brewer's suggestion demonstrates this council's unwillingness to respect the public. The very fact that they are so mean-spirited towards those who confront or challenge them generates the need for there to be some way for "the silent majority" to "speak" without fear of unpleasant consequences.

As I understand the way these surveys operate, the Tybee Neighbors already validates that respondents are residents or property owners. I can understand the Council wanting to be sure it is hearing from its constituents and Tybee Neighbors' validation should be adequate (it could be pointed out what percentage, if any, were not Tybee residents or property owners; some issues seem more relevant than others to county and state residents as well). If general community satisfaction is greater with an outside person validating names and addresses confidentially then that would be a reasonable compromise. That would, of course, require that all such statements made to city council on behalf of any group either have the names and addresses publicly available or validated by the outside person confidentially, depending on how the data was collected (i.e., were respondents promised confidentiality or not). Confidential surveys can be very helpful, especially in a polarized environment. It is a way for people concerned about repercussions from their opinions to express their opinions (e.g. a business owner may not want to lose business because of an unpopular opinion). City Council should listen to every bit of citizen input available to them. Thank you.

Council's effort to suppress surveys contradicts the twenty point platform the majority of them signed during the campaign. So much for their "pledge to seek approval from our taxpayers on major issues and expenditures" (#2) and "to be an open and transparent councilperson with no personal agenda and to treat all persons coming before council with dignity" (#6). If they don't want to hear the opinions of Tybee voters, they should resign.

Now that I'm in my mid 80's, I no longer have the stamina to attend council meetings. I do, however, participate in the Tybee Neighbors surveys. I am outraged that council would suggest suppressing the opinion of the people. I've lived on Tybee longer than most of them combined and I have a right to voice my opinions in a confidential manner.

Why is council making such a big deal about the surveys when it's obvious that they don't care what Tybee citizens think? This council has repeatedly ignored the opinions of countless citizens who've had the nerve to stand up before them and share their opinions. If this is really an issue, then I propose that a impartial, trustworthy attorney validate the names and email addresses. That way, confidentiality will be preserved and council will be assured that the participants are real Tybee people. Of course, council may regret confirming that so many people disagree with the majority of their decisions.

We live in a neighborhood where there is 8 rental places for short term rentals. I have to say that the quality of this neighborhood has gone down alot. We never know who our neighbors are, how many of them going to be in the rental unit, what kind of attitude they will have, and how many times we will have to call the police on them. Most of them come down to Tybee and don't care about the neighborhood. They talk real loud and hollar at each other and don't care if we hear them or not. They constantly slam car doors, blowing car horns, screaming at the kids and parking anywhere they want to. We call the rental agents and they tell us" We have to be nice to the renters".

I don't have to be nice to no one. I live here year round, pay these high taxes, and don't have to put up with this. I feel the rental agents ought to pay us a "Impact Fee" being that the agents have so many other fees. These rental units also leave their garbage cans by the road for weeks and sometimes months at a time if I don't push them back by the house. I have lived in this neighborhood for over 30 years and sure do miss the old neighborhood. Something must be done before next summer or else I will make it very rough on these unruly renters and hopefully they will ask the rental agents to find them a different place to stay or go back home. That's my story and I'm sticking to it because what I said is true and I can prove it. Thanks,

Council's insistence that they be afforded the names associated with the

responses to the survey is just another attempt to silence those with an opinion different than their own and to keep those opinions from being expressed.

We live in a residential area south of City Hall.

The stupidity seems to be primarily alcohol related and usually occurs at rental properties in the neighborhood.

While we occasionally see a crime of opportunity, such as a bike being stolen after the bars close at night, I think that speeding & DUI are the biggest problems that effect my neighborhood.

As for Statement #1: I think it would be a waste of tax-payers money and staff time to try to see if survey results were actually from Tybee residents. Why does it matter who or where respondents live if they take the time and effort to respond to any question or event that takes place on Tybee? Putting names and addresses of respondents would greatly limit the quality and quantity of opinions expressed on your (actually our "Tybee's") surveys. When the city does a survey on their web sight do they ask for names, addresses, ect.? I think not...

#2: I know of nothing that has posed a threat to the people or property on Tybee, but I think the "Neighborhood Watch Program" is a very good idea!

The debate about disclosure of survey respondent's names is contrary to the entire science of opinion polling. I have more than 30 years experience in the political polling and survey research field and disclosure of identifying information about respondents ABSOLUTELY throttles honest expression and can be construed as a form of censorship.

I do not live at Tybee yet but I am a tax-paying (No Stephens Day Relief) property owner. I fully intend to retire to and be active in the community one day. My firm belief is that if Tybee Island wishes to exist as a sustainable community, then privacy and respect for individuals, as well as intellectual curiosity about the needs of the citizens by our civic leaders are all absolutely essential ingredients. I have learned that good government is provided by trusted servants. What I seem to be hearing is that a large part of the public does not trust the Tybee Island City Council. What is the Council's strategy to address this void and regain the public trust??

Please advise.

YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME TO BE KNOWN TO CITY COUNCIL, YET YOU WANT MY NAME TO COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY. DON'T TALK OUT OF BOTH SIDES OF YOUR MOUTH.

I HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE CITY AND I ADDRESSED THE CITY MANAGER, THE MAYOR AND SEVERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS. DON'T HIDE BEHIND A NAMELESS PETITION. I DON'T MIND IF YOU USE MY NAME

Neighborhood watch a good idea (Bay Street) given the number of rentals and transients and the rowdy bar in the area.

As for confidentiality: Nothing wrong with confidentiality of those providing their opinions in surveys. After all, they are surveys, not petitions. The council has a responsibility to weigh all information and judge the information as to its accuracy and relevance. The Neighbors Association should not be provided a special place on the council agenda, but rather should put themselves on the agenda as a "visitor" to provide survey information. In that way, the association does not wear the mantle of "official and accurate information approved by the council." For the council to demand the identity of those providing input to an informal survey smacks not only of censorship but worse, intimidation.

Attempting to require the names and addresses of survey participants smacks of intimidation. These scare tactics are the oldest trick in the book. Why is council afraid to hear what the citizens they represent have to say?

One of the biggest problem in our neighborhood is speeding. Why can't the speed limit be enforced

This tiny sandbar of an island is so small that every decision good or bad affects us all and the future of the island. Yes, I feel that neighborhood watch represents an opportunity for each neighborhood to voice their concerns to the police and council.

Middle creekside of island. Several recent break-ins; nothing taken.

The current council is already trying to suppress people's opinions by showing disrespect to some people that appear before council. Requiring names and addresses of survey participants is a further step in this attempt. Tybee citizens have learned over the past 10 months that some council members are open to hearing only what they want to hear. Results from all sides of an issue are reported in the survey reports. Council should be open to hearing all sides without requiring identification.

I do not feel threatened for my name to be identified as a survey participant.

I think if your neighborhood needs a watch team then I'm all for it. I don't feel that my neighborhood does.

THIS COUNCIL HAS GONE CRAZY. THEY ARE VERY BUSY DESTROYING THE ISLAND AND THEY DON'T EVEN WANT TO HEAR OUR OPINIONS. AS SELF SERVING AS THEY HAVE BEEN, ANYONE WHO WORKS FOR OR DOES BUSINESS WITH THE CITY SURELY CANNOT SPEAK THEIR MIND TO THIS COUNCIL

We have no need for a Neighborhood Watch on our street. I think this is a great idea, but why on Tybee? We don't have any crime, do we? Why do we need a neighborhood watched anywhere on Tybee? Is there some crime area that I don't know about? Thanks.

I own property in the southern section of Tybee and our condo common areas have been vandalized on four occasions

Survey participants have the right to remain anonymous. I strongly suspect and in fact I believe that the council person proposing mandatory disclosure stated that "we would like to talk to them." There is absolutely no evidence that fraud has been committed by any member of Tybee Neighbors in their participation in responding to surveys. The council member suggesting this may have happened should be directed by the Mayor and City Attorney to issue a public apology in the next council meeting.

Of course the survey should be confidential. However I would be fine with listing my name next to my comments. Let them know how I feel.

Mr. Brewer's concerns over Tybee Neighbors' surveys is silliness beyond belief. Since he apparently doesn't feel comfortable listening to opposing views I suggest that he take it to the next step and do away with public hearings.

I think we should get to know our neighbors and look out for each other and each other's property - a formal neighborhood watch is not necessary. It is common sense and a common courtesy to keep one eye open so to speak and keep alert towards our surroundings.

Votes were not counted for the following participants as they live on Spanish Hammock and not in the City but we are including their comments.

Since I live outside the City of Tybee don't know if you are interested in working with our neighborhood or not. However I think Neighborhood Watch is a good program for all neighborhoods. *(Note: vote not counted)*.

I believe everyone has the right to represent themselves. if you have a petition and i sign it i expect that anyone should see my name and address. your on line surveys can be easily duped and at that point the one man one vote is lost. its easy i just hacked this.

if you are not willing to sign your name and publicly make a statement then keep your opinion to yourself. this site is a political action committee (weather by choice or not)