

Aug. 4th, 2004

Subject: HTA emergency meeting minutes - 7PM thru 9:20PM

Attendees: Vidya Bakshi, Madhu Aggarwal, Mohini Ahuja, Balbir Sharma, Varinder Narang and Nirmal Chibber

An emergency meeting was called to review and disposition the incident that took place on temple premises. Details are as follows.

Incident time: Between 10:30 - 11 AM

Incident reported by: HTA board member volunteering as temple care taker

In between the above mentioned time period, a Caucasian descent person arrived in the temple hall and started crying & sobbing in front of deities. He intended to confess for some sort of vague crime that he committed. Description of the person, captured from the latent memory of HTA member, is around 6' tall, well built, mid to early 40's, with proper attire and no obvious sign of physical injury.

Key points of his conversation/confession are as follows:

- Person appeared to be very nervous, emotionally insecure or unstable at that time. No sign of alcohol related physical movement or odor.
- He admitted that he committed some type of crime and explicitly denied of any murder or rape.
- He also made some reference to committing some crime that relates to her sister and described it by saying that he did something bad her sister.
- He volunteered to provide personal information, like name & phone number but HTA member did not feel it is not appropriate to do so. At one point, he was directed to go to the church across the street or to ISKON temple.
- He was asked to go to the police if he thinks he had committed serious crime.
- He asked for the guidance as to what he should do. He made a statement that he very tired and nervous/scared. HTA members suggested him to go home to rest and seek medical advise if he does not feel better
- Incident concluded with peaceful departure the confessing party. He drove off and waived to HTA member as she looked through temple window.

Final disposition by HTA board members

1. Document the incident and file it.
2. HTA is a Hindu based religious organization and its charter does not support or allow processing any type of confessions. This practice will be refereed to local Christian church across the street.

3. HTA members present in the meeting unanimously decided that the incident might not be reported to local authorities without consulting a legal advisor.

HTA board members recommendations

Short-term corrective actions

- No single volunteer shall be on HTA premises at a given time.
- Keep the door locked for screened access to main temple hall. Post a sign outside the main door to ring the bell or knock the door for access to the temple.

Long-term corrective actions

- Install a actively monitored video camera
- Post a visible sign at the temple entrance that the facility is 24/7 actively monitored by close circuit security cameras.
- Locate a "Panic call" switch at a location other than front door vicinity.

Administrative action for HTA board (not discussed in the meeting):

As a collective body, we need to determine what constitutes an emergency and provide definition of an emergency meeting. After the complete review of the situation, some board members including myself determined that such incident shall not be categorized as an acute "emergency" and do not warrant an emergency meeting of the board. As I understand, this type of events had occurred in the past without any catastrophic situation.