

**ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL
QUALITY OF LIFE FORUM**

**Quality of Life Forum
3:00 p.m.**

**August 9, 2008
Deer Valley High School Theatre**

Mayor Freitas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 9, 2008 in the Deer Valley High School Theatre.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Kalinowski, Davis, Moore, Simonsen and Mayor Freitas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STUDY FORUM

1. PRESENTATIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION ON QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES IN THE CITY OF ANTIOCH

A. Opening Comments: What Brought Us Together

Larry Bienati introduced himself and explained the purpose of the Quality of Life Forum and the manner in which it would be conducted. Mr. Bienati noted the order of the Agenda had been changed and provided an overview.

Mayor Freitas welcomed the public and provided an overview of the issues that would be discussed.

A. Update from Antioch Unified School District

Diane Pfeiffer, Antioch Unified School District, spoke to School District issues, in terms of school programs and schedules.

B. Update from Housing Authority

Joseph Villarreal, Contra Costa County Housing Authority, gave a Power Point presentation that explained issues relating to:

- How Has HACC Changed – In terms of Staffing and other various issues
- Pending Changes

C. Prewett Park Community Center

Lonnie Karste, Project Manager, provided a Power Point presentation that explained:

- History of Prewett Park

- Conceptual Design Development Site Plan
- Offered Services

Mayor Freitas noted questions and comments would be taken from the public at this time, due to time constraints for the Antioch Unified School District and Housing Authority representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Villarreal responded to all Housing Authority comments and questions.

Terry Ramos, resident, spoke to Housing Authority issues and questioned what the change would be and how the change would be handled; in terms of would the Housing Authority maintain a crime rate tracking system. He also questioned the consequence of fraud and tenants breaking the rules and how the resolved issues would be tracked and kept on record.

Hans Ho, resident, felt landlords needed to be brought into the Section 8 program, in terms of their responsibilities as a homeowner.

Mary Rocha, resident, questioned if the Housing Authority could work with Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher and also felt a Fraud Investigator was needed, as well as ongoing training for the position.

A resident stated she believed in safety within the school system and commended the City in listening to the concerns of the public. She asked if uniforms could be an option and felt it would be a great step towards the unity of all students.

Walter Ruehling, Antioch School Board, suggested the public initiate a uniform survey for parents throughout individual schools.

Sharon Bella, resident, suggested there be an annual fee and contract for landlords of Section 8 housing. Director of Community Development Brandt stated research is being conducted through City staff to require landlords to register their rental property and landscape/maintenance issues were being discussed also. Furthermore, consequences were being given to properties that were not being maintained through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

A resident suggested various school programs be brought into the community. She felt it would bring competition into the school district and adversarial relationships could only improve the school system. She also suggested school scores needed to be reviewed by the School Board, basic skills be placed into the elementary school system, a voluntary parent sport program be explored, eliminate sixth grade in the middle schools and place it back into the elementary schools and add dance programs to the schools. Mr. Bienati stated those comments were also submitted in letter form to the School District, wherein Mr. Ruehling stated it had been received.

Jim Conley, resident, questioned how the Housing Authority screened individuals and also questioned why all teachers within the School District do not require the students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dee Viera, resident, stated as a landlord she had always maintained her rental property.

Betty Tran, questioned why the participants of the Section 8 lawsuit against the City of Antioch were reinstated back into the Section 8 program, due to the hard work that was conducted by the Police Department and the CAT Team.

A resident stated being a landlord himself, landlords needed support from the City, in terms of damaged property caused from Section 8 tenants.

A resident expressed concern to unsupervised children and questioned how the curfew was implemented.

A resident questioned the policies of the Police Department when stopping young adults on the street.

Director of Community Development Brandt further explained the procedures in which the City reviews properties owned by landlords and how the Rental Inspection Program was implemented.

A break was taken at 10:40 and reconvened at 10:45 a.m. with all Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Kalinowski announced a Fundraise would be held on September 20, 2008 for the Nunn and Wilson Family's and added additional information would follow in the future.

D. Police Department Updates

Antioch Police Chief Hyde provided a Power Point presentation that spoke to:

- Violent and Property Crime Statistics
- Various Tasks Forces

E. Youth Intervention Network

Iris Archuleta provided a Power Point presentation that spoke to:

- YIN Mission Statement
- Goals, Resources and Data

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A resident expressed concern to a recent incident and asked if the police department offered any type of cultural services training to the officers. Police Chief Hyde stated police officer's do receive cultural service training on a regular basis.

Hans Ho, Chairman Crime Prevention Commission, stated his services were there to aid the community and was available for any questions.

Mary Dodson, spoke to the importance of the preservation of the Downtown Rivertown area and expressed concern to the homeless that frequent the downtown area.

Laurie Rodriguez, resident, questioned the hiring of the Deputy District Attorney, in which Police Chief Hyde explained.

Betty Tran, resident, stated she fully supported the City and Police Department and commended the Police Department in stepping forward in their efforts.

A resident stated that quality of life is directly connected to the quality of schools and felt the schools affected the community as a whole. She wanted to ensure the Housing Authority continued their improvement to the Section 8 program and commented on needed City improvements.

Mr. Duran, resident, questioned the staff levels of the police department, in which Police Chief Hyde addressed.

A resident questioned where the majority of the service calls and arrests were within the community and questioned the Police Department's continuous training regarding cultural services. He also asked if the Police Department kept records of racial profile complaints. Police Chief Hyde addressed those issues.

Joe Zamora, resident, expressed a concern to racial profiling and questioned the training received by the Police Department in regards to the issue.

Walter Ruehling, Antioch School Board, addressed the truancy rate of the school district and noted any student receiving a suspension had to fill out a behavioral contract through the School District and meet with a counselor. Furthermore, the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken every day at elementary schools and if not, he requested that he be contacted.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Freitas expressed his appreciation to the public for their questions and comments. He further spoke to the future activity of the Union Pacific and Mococo rail line, in terms of its negative impacts to the quality of life in Antioch. He stated he wanted future comments on the issue from the public and noted with additional traffic of the railroad, the future of eBART was becoming cloudy. He encouraged the community to become organized and political for the future economic development of Antioch.

Councilmember Simonsen encouraged community engagement on the Mococo rail line. He expressed his appreciation to the public for their participation and felt the community forums played an important part of a pro-active community.

Councilmember Moore encouraged community engagement regarding the recent concerns with the Mococo rail line. He expressed concern to the future funding of the Police Department and encouraged dialogue regarding the issue throughout the community. He felt encouraged with the forum today and stated his appreciation to the public for their comments and questions.

Councilmember Kalinowski stated his appreciation to the public for their comments and questions and felt the community played the largest part in the future of Antioch.

Councilmember Davis stated the importance of the Neighborhood Watch Program and felt it was an asset to the community, as well as the VIP (Volunteer in Policing) program. He also spoke to graffiti issues and encouraged a yes vote on Proposition 6.

Mayor Freitas expressed his appreciation to Dr. Bienati and City Staff for their participation in today's forum.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Freitas adjourned the City of Antioch Quality of Life Forum at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Lawson
Minutes Clerk

Approved:

DONALD P. FREITAS, Mayor

Attest:

L. JOLENE MARTIN, CMC, City Clerk