

**ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL  
QUALITY OF LIFE FORUM**

**Special Meeting  
9:00 a.m.**

**February 26, 2011  
Deer Valley High School**

Mayor Davis called the Quality of Life Forum of the Antioch City Council to order at 9:13 A.M. on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at Deer Valley High School.

Present: Council Members Kalinowski, Harper, Rocha, Agopian and Mayor Davis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Harper led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Davis welcomed the public to the City Council Forum with Antioch Unified School District member in attendance and provided the following airing schedule on CCTV for the event: Tuesday March 15, 2011 at 8:00 PM. and March 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM. He introduced Larry Bienati as moderator of the forum.

Larry Bienati, moderator, introduced himself and explained the purpose of the Quality of Life Forum and the manner in which it would be conducted. He distributed his biography and provided contact information.

**1. BUDGET**

Finance Director Merchant provided a power point presentation of the City's financial status that spoke to the General Fund revenues and expenditures.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Deputy Director of Community Development Graham provided a brief overview of Code Enforcement and noted the item would be discussed, in detail, at a future City Council meeting. He encouraged residents to report code enforcement issues directly to the property owners. He announced the Graffiti Abatement Program was meeting on February 28, 2011 and informational flyers were available in the theater.

**2. ANTIOCH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dr. Donald Gill, Superintendent of the Antioch Unified School District, thanked the City Council for allowing the School District to participate in the Quality of Life Forum and introduced the Board of Education in attendance. He gave a brief overview of the Antioch Unified School District budget and programming opportunities. He noted the School District's priority was to maintain and protect the programs and services for the youth in the Antioch Unified School District.

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Stephanie Anello, Director of Program Improvement, gave a power point presentation of the quality of education provided and the dedication to improving instruction through professional development. She thanked the City Council for working cooperatively with the School District.

Dr. Gill introduced Dr. Marsha Brown, Associate Superintendent and Robin Schmitt, Executive Director of Programs and Interventions. He discussed the value of the Youth Intervention Network (YIN) and stated he was proud to be participating in the program. He recognized Keith and Iris Archeletta for their dedication to YIN. He introduced Nicola Lane from Northern Ireland who was here to observe the YIN programming.

### **3. VOLUNTEERISM**

Economic Development Administrative Analyst Brian Nunnally gave a brief PowerPoint presentation of volunteer opportunities in the City and encouraged those interested to sign up at a kiosk in the theater this morning.

A break was taken at 10:09 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 with all Council Members present.

Mayor Davis recognized and thanked City staff in attendance. He reminded the public there was an account set up to benefit Police services which would receive matching funding up to \$100,000 from Tom Nokes, Antioch Auto Dealerships.

Supervisor Federal Glover stated it was an honor to be a part of the forum today and noted the City should be proud of their volunteer efforts. He commended Acting Chief of Police Cantando for doing an outstanding job. He expressed appreciation for his past and future relationship with the City.

Acting Police Chief Cantando thanked the City Council and the residents in attendance today. He discussed the inaccurate and negative press Antioch had received and noted in an effort to provide accurate information to the public, he announced the Antioch Police Department facebook and twitter accounts would be in service beginning February 29, 2011.

Larry Bienati, moderator, gave a history of the Quality of Life Forums and encouraged residents to make comment and provide input with regards to their future priorities.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jennifer McVicker, member of Take Back Antioch (TBA) expressed concern for the negative impacts of the City's lack of code enforcement. She suggested immediately hiring, at a minimum, one Code Enforcement Officer to oversee a staff of volunteers. She questioned the staffing of Animal Services over the Community Development Department.

Walter Ruehlig announced the School District was currently researching implementation of mandatory community service for high school graduation. He announced in the near future he should have the final draft of a website, *volunteerforantioch.com*, which would provide details of volunteer opportunities in Antioch.

Iris Archeletta, representing YIN, gave a brief overview of the Youth Intervention Network and the positive results the program had for the youth in the community. She spoke in support of the vision of Take Back Antioch; however, her only criticism was the name which she felt had a negative connotation. She reminded the community Antioch was the model for the region, county, state and country.

Terry Ramus provided the City Council with a letter containing written suggestions to the City Council which included improvements to the City's website, requesting Allied Waste fulfill their commitment to pick up trash dumped throughout the city and organizing shopping cart sweeps.

A resident spoke to the negative image of the City of Antioch and the importance of economic development, bringing real BART to Hillcrest Avenue and developing a rapid minibus system.

A resident discussed the importance of Code Enforcement and the negative impact to his neighborhood since Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Improvement Services had been abolished.

Willie Mims, Black Political Association and the NAACP questioned what was observed by the Administrators of the Antioch Unified School Board when they conducted professional development in the classrooms. He encouraged the city and community to remain focused and positive when conducting the Quality of Life forums.

A resident representing Take Back Antioch clarified their name was meant to imply they intend to take back Antioch from the blight and crime and create a positive action involving volunteerism.

A resident suggested the Council look at a ballot measure for revenue that included a component for educating the community on the impacts should it fail or pass.

A resident discussed involvement in volunteerism in the community and challenged the members of the City Council to use what Take Back Antioch had to offer to improve the quality of life.

A resident and real estate agent reported the banks would not authorize any repairs unless they were instructed to do so by code enforcement or by threat of a lien against the property.

A resident suggested permit fees for rental properties and establishing an "adopt a roadway program." In terms of the Antioch Unified School District, he suggested they consider implementation of a program in which parents voluntarily pay the district to go to good schools.

A resident questioned the funding to Animal Services when the County provided the services and suggested those funds could be better utilized in code enforcement. She spoke in support of Iris Archeletta and YIN and questioned if Take Back Antioch would consider changing their name.

A resident, representing Take Back Antioch responded they might consider changing their name, once they Take Back Antioch. He stated he appreciated Iris's passion however he was

critical on any negative spin on their group. He asked the community to focus on behavior, blight and crime.

Keith Archeletta, President of Emerald Consulting and Antioch resident stated he felt the forum had been helpful in providing information. He applauded the work Take Back Antioch was attempting to do and encouraged them to educate those who may be attracted to the name for the wrong reasons. He commended the City of Antioch for Prewett Park and the Nick Rodriguez Center and stated now was the time to develop a vision based on the downtown and Delta. He encouraged everyone to work together to build a stronger community.

A resident thanked the Antioch Police Department and the City for the new Community Center at Prewett Park. She spoke to the importance of providing quality education opportunities for the youth in the community and urged the City to focus on truancy.

A resident challenged everyone in attendance today to be ambassadors for the City and become more involved in volunteerism. She questioned if the City had an active economic development department to address unsafe and blighted areas in the community. She suggested the City hire a public relations firm.

Joseph Ramos discussed concessions made by the Antioch Police Officer's Association to address the budget shortfall. He stated before the City Council considered another ballot measure to increase taxes, they should control the cost of pensions and benefits.

## **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Davis thanked all of those in attendance this morning and those who brought forward their comments and concerns.

Councilmember Agopian stated the City would work together to solve the problems focusing on blight and noted they would research and address these issues publicly. He further noted the future is one of economic growth and vitality through clean energy opportunities and improved transportation infrastructure. He stated he had heard that code enforcement was part of the blight concern in the City and a goal should be to find a way to fund the program. He stated he remains accessible to the public.

Councilmember Rocha thanked the public for coming to the forum and providing input. She announced a handout pertaining to the 211 Information and Referral Service was available in the theater lobby. She thanked Mr. Ramus for the information he provided the City Council and spoke to the opportunity for the City to grow economically in the future.

Councilmember Harper thanked everyone in attendance and proposed the City Council hold a retreat to develop a strategic plan with four to five core goals and objectives. He spoke to the importance of developing budget principals and growing the City's economy. He commended Acting Chief of Police Cantando for implementing the Police Department's facebook and twitter accounts and discussed the possibility of having Code Enforcement work out of the Police Department. He voiced his support for mandatory community service requirement for graduation, suggesting a letterman's jacket for students who donate a certain amount of time to

the community. He stated the City should consider taxing income property. He noted he was hopeful and proud of Antioch.

Councilmember Kalinowski stated he would need to hear more dialog from the public before he could support a ballot measure to increase taxes. He noted Take Back Antioch was an inclusive group. He suggested members of the Antioch Unified School District Board of Education sit with the City Council at future forums. He stated he does not support the current proposal for the eBART station and the fact that the BART Board was bidding the station without including the restrooms, station agent facility and escalators. He stated his number one priority was to appoint Allan Cantando as Chief of Police. He commended all employee groups who had made concessions. He discussed the importance of making public safety the City's priority and stated volunteerism would continue to move Antioch forward. He encouraged anyone unhappy with the editing in the newspaper, cancel their subscription.

Mayor Davis stated he was impressed and glad to be working with the City Council and acknowledged all Antioch Police Department Officers in attendance today. He felt the School District was doing their fair share and the City needed to address public safety to drive economic development. He stated he heard the need for code enforcement and felt it was imperative to move forward on developing the program. He discussed the possibility of rehabilitating foreclosed homes and the importance of moving forward with the widening of Highway 4/eBART project. He thanked the AUSD for making the theater available for the forum. He stated he looked forward to the next Quality of Life Forum and thanked City Manager Jakel for all his hard work.

Mr. Bienati stated the forum had been very thoughtful, constructive and inspiring with a positive message for the future. Additionally, he noted there was a great vision for developing a strategic plan. He announced he would make his website available for free.

Mayor Davis adjourned the City of Antioch Quality of Life Forum at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kitty Eiden, Minutes Clerk