

**ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL
QUALITY OF LIFE FORUM**

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

**April 4, 2009
El Campanil Theatre**

Mayor Davis called the Quality of Life Forum of the City Council to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2009 in the El Campanil Theatre.

Present: Councilmembers Kalinowski, Roche, Moore, Parsons and Mayor Davis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STUDY FORUM

1. OPENING COMMENTS: WHAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER

Mayor Davis welcomed the public to the 8th City Council Forum and provided an overview of the issues to be discussed.

The Lone Tree Elementary School 2nd Grade class presented the City Council and the public with a presentation.

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 written information pertaining to past City Council Forums.

2. CITY OF ANTIOCH WATER RIGHTS

Capital Improvement Director Harrington presented a Power Point Presentation which spoke to the water rights pertaining to the City of Antioch's Water System Information. He addressed the City's water stations and their locations, an overview of the Delta and its surrounding areas, as well as water issues throughout the State of California. He further explained the Drought Management Program for the City and announced a public hearing pertaining to the issue would be held on May 12, 2009.

3. UPDATE OF HOUSING ELEMENT OF GENERAL PLAN

Deputy Director of Community Development Wehrmeister spoke briefly to the Housing Element and announced the Planning Commission would hold a Study Session on April 15, 2009 followed with a City Council Study Session on April 28, 2009.

Michelle Kou spoke to the Update of Housing Element of the General Plan and further elaborated on affordable housing and other issues relating to housing.

4. CITY FINANCIAL STATUS

Finance Director Merchant provided a power point presentation of the City's financial status that spoke to the General Fund and other funding sources for the City.

5. HOUSING AUTHORITY UPDATE

Bruce Smargiasso, Contra Costa Housing Authority, provided an update regarding the Housing Authority and noted a fraud investigator had recently been hired and they would be reviewing all pertinent case files. He stated his appreciation to the public for their feedback. Pertaining to Antioch, he advised the Housing Authority was in the process of opening a new facility in Antioch which he felt would better serve the community.

In terms of partnerships, Bruce Smargiasso stated that through a recent newsletter, he had facilitated workshops in Antioch with landlords and felt the meetings were successful, in terms of moving forward with various issues. Also, the City's CAT Team had provided valuable information and services to the Housing Authority and he expressed his appreciation for their help.

A break was taken at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 with all Councilmembers present.

6. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

▪ POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Hyde presented a presentation which spoke to the Police Department's Three-year Strategic Plan, crime statistics, police community activities and past and future police events. He announced a Police Awards Ceremony would be held on May 13 in the City Council Chambers.

▪ CODE ENFORCEMENT

Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator Graham provided an update of Code Enforcement and spoke to response times for code enforcement, due to the current economic times.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Pane, a local school teacher, expressed concern to the large amount of foreclosures and unkempt homes throughout the community. She felt the City needed to put additional effort forward to draw people back into this city and suggested that the downtown be built up to provide an amenity to the city. She spoke to the City of San Jose, in that, they have an ordinance that deals with foreclosures and suggested this for Antioch, amendments and ordinances. She wanted the City Council to deal with these issues and read a prepared statement to this effect. She expressed appreciation to Councilmember Parsons for responding to her e-mail.

A resident representing the NAACP, expressed his appreciation to the City Officials for their time and questioned the recent water issues and what direction the City would take to ensure that the water issues would be met. He also spoke to the City's General Fund and questioned the City's capital for the future.

Walter Reuhling, Board member of the Antioch Unified School District (AUSD), spoke to various school sites, in terms of new and ongoing activities, as well as new school programs that will be implemented in the future.

Joe Ramos, resident, spoke to current Section 8 issues and felt that Antioch had a higher number of Section 8 housing units available and questioned why this was higher than neighboring communities.

Mary Dodson, resident, expressed concern to the police department not enforcing current ordinances.

Rick Carson, resident, spoke to the voluntary water rationing and questioned if this would be placed upon residents that are now already reducing their water usage.

A resident spoke to the City's current budget cuts and expressed concern to code enforcement cuts, in that, she felt that the City should not be cutting health and safety issues for the residents. She expressed concern to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager making a large salary, when code enforcement employees and other City employees were being laid off.

Terry Ramos, resident, felt there was a significant improvement in the graffiti situation, but expressed concern to shopping carts within the community's neighborhoods. He suggested that current salaries be cut, versus layoffs, and that additional community volunteer work be created.

A resident spoke to the purpose of the Crime Prevention Program and encouraged the public to participate.

A resident expressed concern to Antioch's racial profiling and felt that this has gone beyond the issue from African Americans and it was now being felt throughout the Caucasian community. He also expressed concern the economic times and how it would affect the broader Antioch community, in terms of this being a community issue.

A resident expressed concern to the code enforcement cuts and questioned what the response times would be, in terms of the police department. She felt the quality of life throughout the community was of the utmost importance.

A resident questioned why if police and housing were the largest issues of concern, why there were not a larger residents here today.

A resident felt that the City Council should do additional advertising to provide more exposure of the Quality of Life Forums.

A resident suggested that programs be created to help homeowners and owners of vacant properties to improve the aesthetics of their properties. He also asked if the City could adopt some type of roadway program, in terms of littering and requested feedback regarding shopping carts that litter the community.

Mr. Hernandez expressed concern to the current City layoffs and questioned why the City has not sold City-owned property that then prevent further layoffs.

Gary Gilbert, spoke to the recent Oakland Police Department shootings and expressed his deepest sympathies.

A resident spoke to past Quality of Life Forums and expressed concern to Closed Session City Council, and questioned if this violated the law. He also spoke to racial profiling and how he felt it related to Section 8 issues within the community, in terms of evictions.

Hans Ho, spoke to the Crime Prevention issues and stated his support for the City's police department.

Resident, felt that all issues should be discussed and invited the community to a Town Hall meeting with a future date to be set.

A resident expressed concern to the large amount of graffiti that is throughout the community.

A resident expressed concern to the City cutting jobs and asked why current employee's wages were not being cut.

A resident felt that the Quality of Life Forums were very beneficial, but expressed concern to the current administration of the City's police department, in terms of what he felt was observations throughout the community of racial profiling. He also felt that future Quality of Life Forums need to deal with the issues that are raised here today by the residents and that future meetings have a policy on how certain issues are discussed.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Davis expressed his appreciation to the public, and to Dr. Bienati and City Staff for their participation in today's forum.

Councilmember Kalinowski spoke to specific contracts that have been currently negotiated, in terms of the City's budget. He stated that the shopping cart issue will be future agendized and that in terms of Section 8; there will be movement on the evaluations of rents by the Housing Authority in the near future. He requested that the City Manager work with the Housing Authority on this issue. Councilmember Kalinowski stated that he stood behind the City's police department, as well as Chief Hyde, in regards to Code Enforcement.

Councilmember Parsons spoke to the current foreclosures, in terms of legalities. She felt that various City issues need to be addressed, such as shopping carts scattered throughout the community and adopt-a-street programs, as well as current crime issues that are ongoing.

Councilmember Moore stated that he felt that crime issues were of the utmost importance and felt that Quality of Life Forums should be an arena to further enhance discussions. He felt that crime has decreased since his time served on the City Council and expressed his appreciation to the public for their attendance. He felt that the City Council was committed to serve the public and expressed concern to the current City job cuts.

Councilmember Rocha stated her support for the youth of the community and the challenges and changes that have occurred throughout the community. She felt that any type of prevention programs that are created and initiated were important for the City. She spoke to past and current issues and spoke to how the community has changed for the better and encouraged all future input from the residents.

Mayor Davis stated his support of the City Staff and specifically to the City Manager for their efforts put forth today. He stated his appreciation to the public for their attendance and looked forward to all future forums.

Mayor Davis adjourned the City of Antioch Quality of Life Forum at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Lawson
Minutes Clerk

Approved:

L. JOLENE MARTIN, CMC, City Clerk

Attest:

JAMES D. DAVIS, Mayor