

## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Special Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

May 18, 2021  
Meeting Conducted Remotely

*The City of Antioch, in response to the Executive Order of the Governor and the Order of the Health Officer of Contra Costa County concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), held Antioch City Council meetings via Comcast channel 24, AT&T U-verse channel 99, and live stream (at [www.antiochca.gov](http://www.antiochca.gov)). The City Council meeting was conducted utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.*

*Written public comments were received by 5:00 p.m. the day of the Council Meeting in the following ways: (1) Filled out an online speaker card, located at [https://www.antiochca.gov/speaker\\_card](https://www.antiochca.gov/speaker_card), or (2) Emailed the City Clerk's Department at [cityclerk@ci.antioch.ca.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.antioch.ca.us). Oral public comments received during the meeting were received by registering in advance to access the meeting via Zoom Webinar: <https://www.antiochca.gov/speakers> or by dialing (925) 776-3057.*

Mayor Thorpe called the Special meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and City Clerk Householder called the roll.

Present: Council Members District 1 Torres-Walker, District 2 Barbanica, District 3 Ogorchock, Mayor Pro Tem (District 4) Wilson and Mayor Thorpe

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Thorpe discussed two important topics on tonight's agenda: one being misdeeds against Chinese immigrants and the second being initiatives pertaining to youth development. He announced that a signing ceremony for the Resolution apologizing to early Chinese immigrants would be presented with State Controller Betty Yee and other Bay Area Organizations.

Council Member Torres-Walker thanked Mayor Thorpe for bringing forward a resolution apologizing to early Chinese immigrants and their descendants.

Council Member Barbanica congratulated Council Members Torres-Walker and Ogorchock for their recent appointments.

Council Member Wilson thanked Mayor Thorpe for bringing forward a resolution apologizing to the early Chinese immigrants and noted that she looked forward to the discussions addressing youth topics.

Mayor Thorpe recognized May 15, 2021, as the National Peace Officers Memorial Day. He recognized the fallen law enforcement officers and those who had been injured in the line of

duty. He also thanked Council Member Barbanica for his public service as a former Police Officer.

Council Member Barbanica thanked Mayor Thorpe for his acknowledgment.

## **COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING TO EARLY CHINESE IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS FOR ACTS OF FUNDAMENTAL INJUSTICE, SEEKING FORGIVENESS AND COMMITTING TO RECTIFICATION OF PAST MISDEEDS**

Due to the amount of speaker requests and with consensus of the City Council, Mayor Thorpe reduced speaker times to one-minute and thirty seconds.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Elsie Mills representing Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Yolande Barial Knight representing Tracy African American Association (TAAA) and Black Employee Collective, Yulie Padmore, Nancy Drago, Mona Koh, Alexandra Wills, Richmond resident representing Citizens for Historical Equity and Alisa Kim, East Bay resident, provided written comment in support of Council approving the Resolution.

The following public comments were made by individuals who dialed in via telephone during the meeting.

Francisco Torres representing Alliance Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), spoke in support of Council approving the resolution and protections for renters.

Dwayne Eubanks, President of the Antioch Historical Society, announced the Antioch Historical Society Museum would reopen to the public on June 5, 2021.

Councilmember Thorpe thanked the Antioch Historical Society for all of their work on this topic. He commented that Antioch was the first City to officially apologize for the misdeeds and mistreatment of Chinese Immigrants, in the Country. He requested the official resolution include a signature line for every Councilmember.

### **RESOLUTION NO.2021/88**

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica the City Council unanimously adopted the resolution apologizing to early Chinese Immigrants and their descendants for acts of fundamental injustice, seeking forgiveness and committing to rectification of past misdeeds.

## **2. DESIGNATION OF CHINESE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Mayor Thorpe mentioned that City Hall and Waldie Plaza were once called the Historic Chinatown and he would now like to designate the area along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between G Street to I Street, as the Chinatown District.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay:

Elsie Mills representing SURJ, Precious Shelton, Antioch resident, and Aki McKinzie provided written comment in support of establishing a Chinese Historic District.

Councilmember Ogorchock suggested the Waterfront Revitalization Committee investigate this matter. She reported that Mr. Trost had historic information that may be helpful in the research.

Councilmember Wilson suggested including the Antioch Historical Society in the process.

Councilmember Thorpe added that the committee could engage the downtown merchants, Rivertown Preservation Society as well as the community at large.

Councilmember Barbanica mentioned Sean McCauley may also be interested in participating.

Councilmember Torres-Walker agreed and noted the most important group to engage would be the AAPI community.

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica the City Council unanimously referred the designation of the Chinese Historic District to the Waterfront Revitalization Committee.

## **3. FUNDING FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN OF POTENTIAL ASIAN MUSEUM EXHIBITS, MURALS AND RELATED MATTERS**

Mayor Thorpe discussed the importance of community engagement in a process that engages the AAPI community. He proposed the City fund in partnership with the Antioch Historical Society, to hire a contractor to facilitate the planning and design phase.

Councilmember Ogorchock stated she would like to see a mural but had concerns with the upcoming budget. She voiced her support for engaging the AAPI community and memorializing them with murals. She reiterated that Mr. Trost may have information that would be historically significant and suggested referring this item to the Waterfront Revitalization Committee.

Mayor Thorpe clarified that he wanted the focus to be on a planning and design process for exhibits that would engage the community, Waterfront Revitalization Committee, Antioch Historical Society and Celebrate Antioch. He announced that the Antioch Historical Society would be meeting May 26, 2021, to further discuss the project.

Following discussion, Council agreed to commit to funding the planning and design phase of this project, at a reasonable cost.

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica the City Council unanimously directed staff to work with the Antioch Historical Society on finalizing costs for a consultant, planning and design process for a potential Asian museum exhibit, murals, and related matters for Council consideration.

#### **4. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Council Member Ogorchock reported a social media presentation was made at the New Mayor and Council Forum where they discussed the need for cities to have social media policy to avoid litigation. She noted the policy could outline the roles, responsibilities, and best practices for elected officials such as Ethics and Election Rules Compliance, Public Records Act, Records Retention Act, Open Public Meetings, Content Guidelines and Equal Access. She stated she hoped the City Council found value in adding a social media policy.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Melissa Case, John Trizuto, four (4) individuals who did not identify themselves and four (4) individuals who identified themselves as Antioch Community Member/Antioch Community, provided written comment in support of the City Council establishing a social media policy.

City Attorney Smith suggested having the comments read if they included social media content.

Mayor Thorpe agreed to having the comments read per City Attorney Smith suggestion.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Andrew Becker spoke in opposition to the establishment of a social media policy and in support of the City Council informing residents on incidents occurring in the City.

Following discussion, there was no consensus of the City Council to advance a social media policy.

#### **5. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – POTENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL INITIATIVE TARGETING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Mayor Thorpe explained that the Midnight Basketball Initiative was developed to reduce gun violence among youth. He spoke in support of funding the program for Antioch.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Sal Sbranti and Ilene West, Antioch resident, provided written comment in support of a Basketball Program for youth but felt it should not take place at midnight.

Anonymous provided written comment spoke in support of the City addressing a safety component for the midnight basketball initiative and agenda items 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Councilmember Barbanica explained that the title was Midnight Basketball, but it did not mean the games took place at midnight. He explained that the program would work with local police to identify times when the youth were more at risk and then offer them something else that they could engage in with police and probation officers during those times.

Councilmember Torres-Walker spoke in support of Antioch participating in a Midnight Basketball Initiative and discussed the importance of adequate training for the agencies who participated.

Councilmember Ogorchock spoke in support of Antioch participating in a Midnight Basketball Initiative and requested the item be referred to the City School Standing Committee. She noted there may also be an opportunity for PAL and REACH to participate.

Councilmember Wilson spoke in support of Antioch participating in a Midnight Basketball Initiative and agreed it should be referred to the City School Standing Committee. She requested the item be referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee and Contra Costa Chief of Probations.

Mayor Thorpe explained that Midnight Basketball was a trademark and if done in Antioch it had to follow their guidelines. He reported that he had met with Lawrence Gray from The Association of Midnight Basketball who would be working with the City on the application process. He noted this was a matter that should involve Youth Services Network Manager Johnson.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica to refer this item to the City School Standing Committee to work with Youth Services Network Manager Johnson, PAL, Lawrence Grey and the REACH program on the potential establishment of a Midnight Basketball Initiative targeting middle and high school students.

Speaking to the motion, Councilmember Torres-Walker stated there were guidelines and City's had to apply to be accepted into the program so the recommendation from Mayor Thorpe was the City Manager Bernal work with Youth Services Network Manager Johnson and Mr. Grey to see if the City would meet the requirements for Midnight Basketball prior to moving forward with the planning process.

Mayor Thorpe felt adding the different components as stated in the motion was premature because there was a process in starting the Midnight Basketball program. He noted if Council decided to move forward, then they could seek input from the other organizations.

A vote taken on the previous motion failed by the following vote:

*Ayes: Barbanica, Ogorchock*

*Noes: Torres-Walker, Wilson, Thorpe*

On motion by Councilmember Barbanica, seconded by Councilmember Torres-Walker, the City Council unanimously directed the City Manager to begin the application process and determine if the City meets the criteria for the establishment of a Midnight Basketball Initiative targeting middle and high school students.

**6. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – SECURING LOCATION TO LEGALLY AND SAFELY USE OFF-ROAD VEHICLES**

Mayor Thorpe stated that he would like to investigate a potential location for teens to ride their off-road vehicles safely and legally at a secure location. He noted this would allow for police resources to be used adequately in the City. He also mentioned that a local Antioch resident was willing to offer his property for the lease fee of \$1.00 as a pilot program for the summer.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Andrew Zollars spoke in opposition to the western portion of Prewett Park being designated as the location for the use of off-road vehicles.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Wayne Steffen provided written comment in opposition to the western portion of Prewett Park being designated as the location for the use of off-road vehicles.

Sal Sbranti provided written comment in support of developing controlled access for off-road vehicles to get to the location.

Two individuals who identified themselves as Community Members, Margaret Frise, Emma Royds, Justin Sane, Elizabeth Borden, Paige Turner, Edith Ann, John Daniels, Mike Vidov, Robert Lambrose, Arthur Galang, Jill Destefano, Jennifer Beatty, Nellie Beatty, and Teresa Beatty, provided written comment against the City securing a location to use off-road vehicles, many specifically mentioned their opposition to Prewett Park being designated as the off-road site.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Andrew Becker spoke in support of the City securing a location to use off-road vehicles legally and safely. He suggested the City work with East Bay Regional Parks for a long-term solution.

Mayor Thorpe explained that information posted on social media pertaining to this item being located at Prewett Park was incorrect.

Councilmember Torres-Walker thanked Mayor Thorpe for bringing this item forward for discussion. She acknowledged that she had been unaware with where off-road vehicles could legally ride. She spoke in support of the City securing location for off-road vehicles.

Councilmembers Barbanica and Ogorchock spoke in opposition to the City providing an off-road location due to safety concerns and liability issues.

Councilmember Wilson stated she would like the liability issues identified as well as the cost associated with securing a site in Antioch so Council could make an educated decision.

The City Council directed City Manager Bernal and City Attorney Smith to identify potential viable locations, liability concerns, and other relevant information associated with securing a location for off-road vehicles.

## **7. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – POTENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE**

Mayor Thorpe announced that in conjunction with Council Member Torres-Walker they recently met with organizations who engaged with Community Violence Solutions. He stated they would like to have support from City Council to establish a Community Violence Solutions Task Force so they could continue working on this matter.

Councilmember Torres-Walker spoke in support of establishing a Community Violence Solutions Task Force Committee and shared that she had years of experience working with violence intervention and prevention solutions in partnership with various law enforcement agencies. She explained that the most successful strategies were those with the community leading the efforts in partnership with local law enforcement resources.

Mayor Thorpe reported he had talked with Chief Brooks to discuss his participation in the process.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Judy Haber spoke in support of establishing a Community Violence Solutions Task Force Committee.

The following public comments were read into record by City Clerk Householder.

Nichole Hsu, Erin Roeder, Shannon Reif, Deborah Hamilton, Joan Kazerounian and Rita Chakrabarti, representing Moms Demand Action, Sal Sbranti and Lisa Dell'Anno, provided written comment in support of establishing a Community Violence Solutions Task Force Committee.

Shannon Ripoli, and Havuta Jain, Vivien Partridge, representing Moms Demand Action provided written comment in support of agenda items #7 and 8.



Councilmember Torres-Walker expressed the importance of being involved with youth development and added that this committee should include young people, be intergenerational and involve the community.

Mayor Thorpe stated that some people used gun violence in Antioch as a political which was unfortunate because there were people who wanted to address issues and curb gun violence. He reported that between April and December 2020, there was a 46% increase in gun violence nationally and the trend continued this year.

On motion by Councilmember Torres-Walker, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council unanimously directed the City Manager to draft a resolution establishing a Community Violence Solutions Ad-Hoc Committee for Council consideration.

Mayor Thorpe lost connection at 8:55 P.M. and returned at 8:56 P.M.

## **8. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – POTENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAFE STORAGE ORDINANCE FOR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

Mayor Thorpe explained that having a potential ordinance could enhance state law to ensure gun owners were safely storing firearms and ammunition. He stated that the ordinance was proposed by *Moms Demand Action* to curb gun violence and to keep guns away from young people. He reported the City of Orinda currently had a similar ordinance and Antioch could potentially follow the same model.

Councilmember Torres-Walker expressed the importance of having a safe storage ordinance for firearms and ammunition.

Councilmember Barbanica expressed concern that the ordinance could not be enforced by the Antioch Police Department. He stated he would like to see an educational program for gun owners and the City working in partnership with gun stores to ensure there is a supply of safes or trigger locks for residents. He requested the legality of the Ordinance be researched by City Attorney Smith.

Mayor Thorpe stated an educational component would compliment the ordinance.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Michelle Sinnott representing Moms Demand Action spoke in support of a safe storage ordinance for firearms and ammunition.

The following public comments were read into record by City Clerk Householder.

Rita Chakrabarti, Joan Kazerounian, Lisa Dell'Anno, Nicole Hsu, Erin Roeder, Shannon Reif, representing Moms Demand Action, Allison Anderman representing Giffords Law Center, Jake



& Diane, Antioch residents, Deborah Hamilton, Bay Point resident and Judy Haber, provided written comment in support of a safe storage ordinance for firearms and ammunition.

Frank San Martin, Antioch resident, provided written comment against a safe storage ordinance for firearms and ammunition and urged the City Council to vote no on agenda items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Councilmember Barbanica reiterated that there was state law that addressed this issue and voiced his support for an educational component.

Mayor Thorpe responded that research on this issue could distinguish the difference between state law and a local ordinance.

On motion by Councilmember Torres-Walker, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council unanimously directed the City Attorney to provide a staff report with additional information on the potential establishment of a Safe Storage Ordinance for firearms and ammunition.

Mayor Thorpe declared a recess at 9:34 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 9:41 P.M. with all Councilmembers present.

## **9. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – BUS PASS PROGRAM**

Councilmember Wilson announced the City of Antioch had participated in the Bus Pass Program by subsidizing bus fares for the youth on the Tri-Delta system. She reported other agencies that participated in the program decided not to move forward this summer. She stated Tri-Delta Transit System CEO, Jeanne Krieg asked if the City was interested in continuing the program solely through Tri-Delta Transit and she had responded that she would bring the item to Council for further discussion.

In response to Mayor Thorpe, City Manager Bernal stated he did not recall if the program was funded in the upcoming budget and he would report back to Council at the June 8, 2021, Council meeting.

Councilmember Wilson requested this item be built into the budget and asked Council to consider extending the program to year-round.

Mayor Thorpe responded that the funding could be extended year-round if it were within the budget and they could review this item at a later date if additional funding was needed.

Councilmember Torres-Walker encouraged a discussion with Tri Delta regarding the bus routes and timing. She suggested the City also partner with BART to reduce costs to avoid fare evasion.

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council

unanimously directed staff to include the Bus Pass Program in the Budget Study Session on June 8, 2021.

**10. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – REVIEW OF CITYWIDE K-12 CAMPUSES TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES, INCLUDING CROSSING GUARDS**

Mayor Thorpe suggested referring this item to the City School Standing Committee to identify the needs at school locations and then bring it back to the City Council for discussion.

Councilmember Torres-Walker requested Agenda Items 10, 11 and 12 be referred to the City School Standing Committee.

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council unanimously referred the review of citywide K-12 campuses to determine the need for traffic calming measures, including crossing guards to the City/School Standing Committee.

**11. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – POTENTIAL AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL ANTIOCH POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME FOR AFTERSCHOOL ANTIOCH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EVENTS**

Mayor Thorpe reported this item was brought forward in the spirit of Jonathan Parker who was murdered at Deer Valley High School and suggested it be referred to the City School Standing Committee for further discussion and a recommendation.

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council unanimously referred the potential authorization of additional Antioch Police Department overtime for afterschool Antioch Unified School District special events to the City School Standing Committee for further discussion and a recommendation.

The following public comments were read into record by City Clerk Householder.

Shelton Lee Jr., Hamilton Burger and James Beam, Antioch residents, spoke in support of the potential authorization of additional Antioch Police Department overtime for afterschool Antioch School District Special Events and implementation of the SRO program.

Mayor Thorpe clarified that this item was not related to School Resource Officers (SRO).

**12. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – POTENTIAL LAUNCH OF A SCHOOL WATCH AND CARE PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF ANTIOCH POLICE CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION**

Mayor Thorpe stated this item was related to Neighborhood Watch and the Police Crime Prevention Commission volunteering their time to be present at school events.

Councilmember Torres-Walker stated as the City School Standing Committee had this discussion, she would support cultural competency and implicit bias training for the Antioch Police Crime Prevention Commission.

Mayor Thorpe agreed with Councilmember Torres-Walker and requested Youth Services Network Manager Johnson be involved in the discussions.

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council unanimously referred the potential launch of a School Watch and Care Program to the City School Standing Committee and the Police Crime Prevention Commission.

**13. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – POTENTIAL INCREASE OF CAMPUS SAFETY PERSONNEL ON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES**

The following public comments were read into record by City Clerk Householder.

Sal Sbranti provided written comment in support of Antioch Unified School District addressing this issue.

Sarah Bellum and Benji Shatnawi provided written comment in support of increasing campus safety personnel and reestablishing the SRO program.

Mayor Thorpe clarified that this item was not related to the SRO program.

Councilmembers Torres-Walker and Ogorchock spoke in support of moving this item to the City School Standing Committee for discussion.

On motion by Councilmember Torres Walker, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council unanimously referred the potential increase of campus safety personnel on High School campuses to the City School Standing Committee.

**14. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – ADDITION OF YOUTH MEMBERS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilmember Wilson announced that she had spoken to youth who had mentioned that they would like to have a voice in governance in the City. She suggested City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Householder and Youth Services Network Manager Johnson investigate this item and bring back information to Council.

Councilmember Torres Walker thanked Councilmember Wilson for bringing this item to Council and spoke in support of the addition of youth members to Boards and Commissions.

The following public comment was read into record by City Clerk Householder.

Marie Arce provided written comment in support of the addition of youth members to Boards and Commissions.

On motion by Councilmember Barbanica, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the City Council unanimously referred the addition of youth members to the City's Boards and Commissions, to City Attorney Smith to research and bring back information to Council.

Mayor Thorpe announced that public comment cut off time was at 3:00 P.M. the day of the Council meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following public comments were read into record by City Clerk Householder.

Justice for APD provided written comment in support of the Antioch Police Department.

Gil Murillo, Antioch resident, provided written comment recognizing Antioch Animal Control for helping retrieve turkey chicks from a sewer drain.

Angelica Tripp, Antioch resident, Raul Vasquez, Richmond resident and Jackie Lowery, Antioch resident representing ACCE, provided written comment in support of tenant protections that closed loopholes in state laws.

Melissa Case, Antioch resident, provided written comment suggesting Council postpone making public statements on critical incidents until Antioch Police Department has issued a press release.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Dwyane Eubanks thanked Council for recognizing the efforts of the Antioch Historical Society Museum and their preservation of Antioch history. He spoke regarding a mural that needed to be preserved and requested further discussion on this matter.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Barbanica, seconded by Councilmember Ogorchock, the City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:18 P.M.

*Emily Arredondo*

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EMILY ARREDONDO  
Clerk's Administrative Assistant