

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
January 20, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

Coordinator Ho called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M., on January 20, 2016 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room. He announced there was no quorum this evening and the meeting was allowed to proceed; however, there would be no actionable items. Additionally, in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, according to the bylaws, the Coordinator would preside over the meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Thurston led the Commission, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lieutenant Bittner announced he would now be the liaison for the Police Crime Prevention Commission.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Parham, Solorio and Thurston
Absent: Commissioner Taylor, Williams, Davis and Chairperson Gadams

Staff: Chief of Police, Allan Cantando
Lieutenant, Desmond Bittner
Sergeant, Demitri Barakos
Sergeant, John Fortner
Corporal, Rick Martin
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 16, 2015)

Due to lack of a quorum this item was not considered.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Mendoza resident of Casa Del Rio for Seniors, announced they were present as a group of residents this evening to get information on how to address safety issues. She thanked Commissioner Thurston for facilitating a meeting in their neighborhood and expressed interest in starting a private Undercover Task Force.

Chief Cantando stated he was not familiar with the private Undercover Task Force and offered to meet with Ms. Mendoza after the meeting to discuss this issue.

Coordinator Ho explained that essentially Neighborhood Watch was responsible for observing and reporting without exposing participants to confrontations or dangers.

Commissioner Parham explained the Tip Soft app was available for residents who wished to send information anonymously to the Antioch Police Department.

Commissioner Thurston added that the Antioch Police Department also had an app available.

Chief Cantando explained the Tip Soft app was not appropriate for in progress crimes and encouraged those calls be made to dispatch when they were occurring. He noted tip soft was available for residents who wished to give information regarding a crime that had already occurred.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Patrice Guillory, The Network Re-Entry Program

Patrice Guillory introduced herself as the Field Operations Coordinator for the Network Re-Entry Team. She noted they served as an extension of the County Probation Department to support those coming home from incarceration by providing resources and services for successful reintegration into the community. She gave a brief overhead presentation that included the following information.

- Goals: Assist returning citizens, reintegrate them back into the community, reduce recidivism rates and increase public safety
- Network Re-Entry Team: 3 Field Operation Coordinators serving Central and East Contra Costa County
- County adopted two models: mobile in Central and East County, Re-Entry Success Center in West County
- Those served include: AB109 probationers as well as anyone who served time who was in need of support services
- Focus was on: Housing, employment, legal aid, family & community reunification, documentation retrieval
- Four major components: Network providers, network housing, mentor/navigators volunteer program, "no wrong door" sites (community based organizations)
- Service providers for employment & job preparation: Goodwill, Rubicon, Fast Eddie's and Brighter Beginnings
- Service provider for housing: Shelter Inc.
- Services providers for documentation retrieval: Men & Women of Purpose and Reach Fellowship
- Service provider for legal aid: Bay Area Legal Aid

- Service provider for family/community reunification: Center for Human Development
- Community engagement consisted of the following: Mentor/Navigator Program and “No Wrong Door” sites which included faith based organizations, community based organizations, services providers, police departments as well as other County agencies
- Network participants process: Referral from probation or walk ins at service providers, self referred (pre or post release) and non-network providers
- Field Operations Coordinators meets with returning citizen, assess needs, create an individual service plan (ISP), connect returning citizens to service providers, monitor progress and adjust ISP as needed
- Identified core needs: housing, employment & education, substance abuse recover & mental health support, legal assistance, accessing documentation, mentorship & community reintegration
- Successful results for network participants: post release time exceeds 3 months, commitment, compliance and completion of multiple network programs, movement from rapid to transitional then permanent housing, permanent employment, key relationships built and sustained
- Contact information: 925-752-2830 or contracosta.ca.gov/reentrynetwork

In response to questions from the audience Ms. Guillory clarified the following:

- Referrals were received from the probation department who assessed needs, created a service plan and sent out referrals
- There was no requirement for returning citizens to enroll in the network and since August a majority of AB109 probationers had been connected to the network
- There were approximately 140-150 AB109 probationers in Antioch with the majority residing in Central and East County. The bulk of which resided in Antioch, Concord and Martinez
- Currently approximately 80, AB109 probationers contacted the network
- Mentor/navigator were required to go through training and background checks/fingerprinting

A resident stated he was concerned his grandson who recently returned to jail was bipolar and questioned if he could receive help through this program when he was released.

Ms. Guillory responded that he could receive help and referred him to County Mental Health to determine if there was availability in a treatment program. She stated her contact information was provided in the community room this evening and encouraged anyone in need of services to contact her or provide her contact information to those who need it so she could reach out to them. She commented that immediate engagement was key.

Coordinator Ho and Chief Cantando thanked Patrice Guillory for the presentation.

Ms. Guillory stated if there were other organizations needing to be connected to their work, she would like to speak to those individuals.

Coordinator Ho introduced Sergeant Fortner to make a presentation dealing with criminal activity and the partnership of Antioch Police Department and Antioch citizens:

Sergeant Fortner provided the following information:

- November 16, 2015 – Antioch citizen Mr. Phillips fell victim to a vehicle burglary
- Early morning hours suspect was casing neighborhood and burglarized vehicle by smashing window stealing battery charger and fled the area in his own vehicle
- Incident was captured on a neighbor's (Mr. Porter) surveillance video camera, suspect and his car including the license plate were captured on video
- Information was shared with the victim and Antioch Police Officer Tom Smith
- A thorough report was completed
- Victim made a flyer and distributed to his Neighborhood Watch group and Coordinator Ho who contacted Lieutenant Aguinaga
- Flyer included photos of the suspect, vehicle with a physical description and what had occurred
- An investigation was underway and a Antioch Police Department "Be On The Lookout" (BOLO) was released using the flyer
- November 24, 2015 the vehicle was spotted by Officer Smith on East 18th Street
- Through a cooperative police effort the vehicle was stopped and at the onset of the stop a parolee fled from the backseat, was quickly detained and arrested for possession of burglary tools and narcotics paraphernalia
- The driver of vehicle was identified by Senior Officer at the scene as a subject with multiple criminal contacts and ex-parole for car theft and theft and matched the suspect captured on the surveillance video
- Clothing matching those in the surveillance video were also recovered from the vehicle
- Suspect was arrested for the crime and transferred to County jail
- When citizens and Antioch Police Department work together as a team powerful relationships were formed, sharing information and resources to affect more people in the community
- With the help of citizens, Antioch Police Department was able to find and hold accountable those responsible for the property damage and theft
- This was a perfect example of Antioch citizens taking back Antioch and taking a proactive role in making the community safer

The audience applauded Mr. Porter for taking an active role that led to the capture of the suspect.

A resident stated she arrived home at 12:30 A.M. to find her home had been burglarized and the suspect may have been inside the residence when she returned. She stated she immediately called Antioch Police Department who responded at 4:00 A.M.

Sergeant Fortner stated if key information does not get received or understood by Dispatch, miscommunication could happen, delaying response. He noted typically if a home is broken into and the victim is unsure if the suspects were inside, it would be a priority call. He stated accurate information was vital to response times. Additionally, he noted call volume and staffing were also factors.

The resident responded that she had made an extensive listing of items that were taken and she had not received a response from the Antioch Police Department as to whether any of her items were recovered.

Chief Cantando explained that without a serial number, unless items were extremely unique, it was difficult to identify what belonged to victims; however, if serial numbers were provided they could be researched. Additionally, he noted with 1-2 burglary investigators, they were busy working cases and would not be providing updates. He further noted if something was found specifically indentified to a resident, those items were available for the public to look through, prior going to auction.

Sergeant Fortner explained burglaries were transient by nature.

Mr. Porter stated he had 4 cameras in his front yard.

A resident expressed concern the Antioch Police Department would not respond when her neighbor had car tires stolen.

Chief Cantando explained if there is suspect information and leads, they would send an officer to respond.

Coordinator Ho stated Mr. Porter provided the best evidence he had personally seen in 12 years on the Police Crime Prevention Commission.

Sergeant Fortner commented eyewitness accounts of crimes have, at times, been very accurate.

A resident stated that he had reported suspicious activity in his neighborhood. He questioned in what instance would be legal for him to use his firearm to protect his property.

Chief Cantando explained if someone was in his house and he feared for his life or the life of his family, he had the right to protect himself and them; however, the event would have to be justified to law enforcement and the court system.

A resident questioned if she could carry a weapon if she was licensed and involved in a federal housing program.

Chief Cantando suggested the resident check with the organization involved.

In response to a resident, Sergeant Fortner explained both residents involved in the burglary were residents of Antioch. He stated initially the vehicle was not registered to the suspect and when it eventually was, the address was not current.

A resident reported her house was burglarized in June and gave the Antioch Police Department accolades for their response. She stated one of the suspects was apprehended for another crime he had committed afterward and that case was going to court prior to hers. She questioned why her case had been delayed.

Sergeant Fortner explained cases do not go in order for many reasons. He noted at times there can be a delay in the justice system and if it was not a violent crime they cannot be held in custody.

A resident encouraged residents to install alarms systems and become familiar with their neighbors.

A resident reported her neighbors had a gun stolen and it was two years before it was returned from another jurisdiction.

A resident commented the City Manager's weekly reports were very informative. She stated she had reported a marijuana grow house next door to her home and she would have liked a follow up report from Antioch Police Department.

Chief Cantando explained when Antioch Police Department made an arrest there was a lot of follow up and they would not put out information during an ongoing investigation.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Solorio reported on his attendance at City Council meetings. He stated with future development approved in Southeast Antioch, the Crime Prevention Commission should be mindful of Neighborhood Watch coverage needed for those areas.

Commission Parham reported on a meeting she attended at the Antioch Unified School District, with Chairperson Gadams and Commissioner Solario. She stated they were attempting to work on a crime prevention presentation for the schools.

Commissioner Thurston reported he had facilitated a meeting with residents at Casa Del Rio, and there would be a follow up meeting in a couple of weeks. He announced Chairperson Gadams, Commissioner Taylor and himself were working on an exploratory committee to organize a Business Watch Program. He stated Commissioners would begin calling Block Captains throughout the month to gather information. He reported at the last City Council meeting Chief Cantando heard a reckless driver and he responded and apprehended the individual responsible.

Coordinator Ho announced he was going to be a grandfather of twins, in July.

b. Staff

Chief Cantando introduced Lieutenant Bittner, Sergeant Fortner, Sergeant Barako and Corporal Martin. He explained they were getting supervisors more exposed to the community to hear their concerns. He noted these individuals were the future leadership of Antioch Police Department.

Lieutenant Bittner reported he had been an officer for over 10 years and he had no idea the Police Crime Prevention Commission existed until he attended a recent meeting. He agreed it was important to have the Sergeants and Corporals attend meetings. He voiced his appreciation to the Crime Prevention Commission and Neighborhood Watch groups and stated he looked forward to participating in future meetings.

Coordinator Ho reported that during the Citizen's Police Academy, Corporal Martin had taught Commissioner Thurston and himself how to make a traffic stop and Sergeant Fortner had taught them how to shoot a firearm.

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

February 6, 2016 – Neighborhood Clean-up
February 17, 2016 – Police Crime Prevention Meeting

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 17, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

