

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AND BLOCK CAPTAINS QUARTERLY MEETING**

Antioch, California
January 22, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on January 22, 2014 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Augusta, Taylor, Williams and Vice Chairperson Cook
Absent: Commissioners Davis, Gadams, Hayes,

Staff: Chief of Police, Allan Cantando
Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga
Coordinator, Hans Ho

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 18, 2013)

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Augusta the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of November 18, 2013 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Augusta, Taylor, Williams and Vice Chairperson Cook
Absent: Commissioners Davis, Gadams and Hayes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cliff Doren, Antioch resident, expressed concern regarding a problem property in his neighborhood and reported that he had contacted the property manager to request the issue be addressed.

Vice Chairperson Cook suggested Mr. Doren seek information from the *Cleaning Up Antioch, One Home At a Time* facebook page regarding how to deal with problem properties. He also suggested Mr. Doren discuss the issue with Lieutenant Aguinaga after the meeting.

Lori Cook, Antioch resident, stated she had created the facebook page, *Cleaning Up Antioch, One Home At A Time* and flyers were available this evening in the community room. She encouraged residents to participate and thanked all the volunteers who had helped to clean up Antioch. She announced she was having t-shirts made up and anyone interested could contact her to purchase one.

Mark Davidson, Antioch resident, acknowledged the importance of Neighborhood Watch. He reported suspects arrested for a drug deal in his neighborhood had subsequently moved, which had improved the quality of life in his neighborhood.

Mario Vasquez, Antioch resident, spoke to increased criminal activity in his neighborhood and questioned if anyone else was having similar issues. He reported he had been cleaning up his neighborhood and questioned why the City was no longer enforcing Code Enforcement issues.

Vice Chairperson Cook explained Code Enforcement had been cut back with the City's budget constraints and currently they were dealing with the most urgent concerns. He encouraged residents of the neighborhood have a Neighborhood Watch meeting and he offered to meet with Mr. Vasquez after the meeting to schedule the meeting.

Kiran Singh questioned how medicinal marijuana use was being addressed in the city. She also noted with the legalization of marijuana she feels other less serious crimes would become legal.

Chief Cantando discussed the challenges of enforcing medicinal marijuana use.

Lieutenant Aguinaga stated medicinal marijuana users needed to post their medical marijuana card in their home and carry one with them.

New Block Captains in attendance introduced themselves.

5. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Election of Chair and Co-Chair

On motion by Commissioner Augusta seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Police Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously appointed Vice Chairperson Cook, Chair of the Police Crime Prevention Commission. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Augusta, Taylor, Williams and Vice Chairperson Cook
Absent: Commissioners Davis, Gadams and Hayes

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commission Augusta the Police Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously appointed Commissioner Gadams and Co-Chair of the Police Crime Prevention Commission. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Augusta, Taylor, Williams and Vice Chairperson Cook
Absent: Commissioners Davis, Gadams and Hayes

b. Disaster preparedness presentation by Lonnie Karste (Karste Consulting, Inc.)

Lonnie Karste gave a brief overhead presentation on disaster preparedness which included the following information:

- Potential disasters and threats in Contra Costa County
- Local resources
- Community warning system and shelter-in-place protocols
- Personal and family preparedness – checklist and calendar for assembling emergency kits and plans
- Neighborhood and community preparedness

In response to the audience Mr. Karste clarified the following:

- Supplies should be kept in a shady cool area and water should be rotated out every three months
- Similar presentations could be made at Neighborhood Watch meetings
- KCBS was used to broadcast emergency information
- Residents should have as many different ways to communicate as possible

6. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Augusta thanked Lori Cook for fundraising for the bulletproof vests for the Police Department Canine Program. He reported he felt the Neighborhood Watch group in the Mountainview area had valid concerns regarding how criminal activity was being addressed in their area. He suggested residents attempt to contact property managers regarding concerns related to rental properties.

Commissioner Taylor reported no one had attended the Sycamore Neighborhood Watch meeting; however Delta Pines had a new property management company who were very dedicated to improving the area. She stated they were interested in hosting a pizza lunch for officers to promote positive relations between the residents and the Antioch Police Department. She added that her personal Neighborhood Watch group was interested in hosting a breakfast for the Antioch Police Department.

Chief Cantando stated he would discuss this matter with Commission Taylor.

Coordinator Ho stated in the past United Citizen's for a Better Neighborhoods (UCBN) had hosted an Antioch Police Officer's appreciation day at the Water Park and noted that maybe as police staffing improves, they could recruit more volunteers to host another event.

Commission Taylor suggested the Commission consider organizing a Neighborhood Watch garage sale.

Commissioner Williams announced the schedule for Community Café meetings were available in the Police Department Community room this evening.

Coordinator Ho added that he had emailed the schedule to the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains.

Chairperson Cook reported on a meeting he had attended regarding the homeless population in Antioch. He announced facebook groups from *Cleaning Up Antioch One Home At A Time* and *Empower Antioch Today* as well as Allied Waste had attempted to clean up items that had been dumped in the community. He announced Coffee with the Cops would be held from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. on January 29, 2014. He encouraged residents to engage in conversation with the candidates for City Council. He recognized the security officer at Target who identified a suspicious circumstance and recorded information that led to the arrest of a suspected kidnapper. He encouraged residents to stay off cell phones, pay attention to what was occurring around them and report all suspicious activity to the Antioch Police Department.

b. Staff

Chief Cantando announced Coffee with the Cops would be held from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. on January 29, 2014 at the Police Department Community room. He reported Lieutenant Aguinaga and Animal Supervisor Helgamo brought forward an Animal Services ordinance, to the City Council and issues regarding feral cats and the number of animals people could have without a permit, were items that were identified as needing further discussion. He suggested members of the audience become familiar with the ordinance and provide comments to the Council regarding these issues.

Chairperson Cook added the feral cat population had caused major health problems in downtown Antioch.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Continued

John Strickland, Antioch resident, reported homes in his neighborhood had illegal businesses and storage containers in driveways which he had reported to Code Enforcement. He noted the issues had remained unresolved and questioned when he could expect them to be addressed.

Chief Cantando stated he could not give a date those items would be addressed however Code Enforcement was in the process of rebuilding staffing and currently they were dealing with the most egregious properties. He noted that once those issues were addressed they would begin dealing with other issues. He added that the Police Department sees a benefit from Code Enforcement, in relation to calls for services.

Chairperson Cook reported once Measure C money was collected, part of the funds would be used to increase Code Enforcement. He noted as an alternative, residents could go to the facebook page, *Cleaning Up Antioch One Home At A Time*, to learn how to deal directly with property owners.

A speaker requested an update with regards to how the Antioch Police Department prioritized calls for service.

Chief Cantando reported some officers worked overtime just to fill the regular shifts and the number one priority was to respond to the 911 calls. He commented that he had recently gone out in the field to assist in clearing calls and there were more calls on the screen when he ended the shift than when he had started. He noted more detailed information would be available at Coffee with the Cops. He encouraged residents to sign up for alerts from crimereports.com.

Edward Antrim, Antioch resident, reported Redwood Properties had indicated that they had recently refurbished properties in the Sycamore area.

Chairperson Cook thanked Mr. Antrim volunteering to pick up garbage and deal with the homeless population.

Chief Cantando added that even though Mr. Antrim had recently had double knee replacement surgery, he had remained committed to cleaning up neighborhoods.

A speaker thanked the Commission for the information on the homeless and reported she had talked with a member of city staff who had indicated that there was new legislation prohibiting the cleaning up of homeless encampments.

Chairperson Cook reported Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham had indicated that Code Enforcement had to be careful of which items that were taken from homeless encampments.

Steve Huddleston, Antioch resident, reported the homeless had taken clothing out of donation containers to sleep on, in the area near Foodmax. He questioned if something could be done to address the panhandlers standing in the medians.

Chief Cantando stated they have dealt with the issue in the past however with the reduction in courts; judges are not pursuing these cases. He reported there was an incident where Captain McConnell had told a homeless person to leave the median and before he left, another person was standing in his place. He added two (2) years ago, there was a contest for officers to see who could issue the most citations and the crew that won wrote sixty-five (65) citations in a month, however when they got to court the judge did not do anything with those cases. He stated they would continue to cite for panhandling and the drivers who stop unsafely.

Stephanie Sterling, reported she cleaned up the park she walks at on a daily basis and noticed a shopping cart in the area, which had been abandoned. She questioned what she should do with it.

Chairperson Cook suggested Republic Waste be notified of the abandoned cart.

Steve Huddleston reported some panhandlers were under the influence and he fears for their safety.

Chief Cantando stated many communities are experiencing the same issues and if they are under the influence they could be arrested.

Lori Cook, Antioch resident, requested people who see homeless encampments contact her or *Cleaning Up Antioch, One Home At A Time*.

Wayne Harrison announced the 5th annual Keep Antioch Beautiful Day would be held in April.

In response to a member of the audience, Chairperson Cook commented representatives from Antioch were working with other cities and the County on the homeless issue; however a main issue was dealing with those who have pets.

Chief Cantando added that it was a social issue and there were always going to be people that wanted to live the lifestyle and it is just a matter of mitigating the issues, as best as possible.

Chairperson Cook announced the following meetings and events.

7. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

a. February 19th, 2014 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting

b. February 1, 2014 – Next Neighborhood Clean-up, Meet at Kimball Elementary, 1310 August Way.

Coordinator Ho requested an electronic copy of the Coffee with the Cops flyer so he could email the information to the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. He urged residents reporting emergencies call 911 and non-emergency issues be reported to the police department's non-emergency number at 778-2441.

Chairperson Cook stated Neighborhood Watch was working and anyone interested in forming a group could discuss it further with Commission members after the meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Augusta, seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously adjourned the meeting. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Augusta, Taylor, Williams and Vice Chairperson Cook
Absent: Commissioners Davis, Gadams and Hayes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 19, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

BLOCK CAPTAINS QUARTERLY MEETING