

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Regular Meeting  
7:00 P.M.**

**January 23, 2019  
Police Department Community Room**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M., on January 23, 2019 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint, Goodson and Chairperson Thurston

Staff: Lieutenant, Tarra Mendes  
Coordinator, Hans Ho  
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

**3. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

Chairperson Thurston welcomed everyone to the meeting. He discussed the manner in which the meeting would be conducted. He announced the speaker request forms, City Department phone listing and the Police Crime Prevention Commission Mission Statement were available in the Community Room this evening. He encouraged residents to provide the Commission with their suggestions for future meeting presentations. He announced the District Attorney Becton would be making a presentation to the Commission this evening.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December 17, 2019)**

On motion by Commissioner Goodson, seconded by Commissioner White the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of December 17, 2019 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint, Goodson and Chairperson Thurston

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**6. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION** (This item was heard following Old Business)

“Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office” by Contra Costa County DA Diana Becton

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

### Business Watch Implementation – Report by Chairperson Thurston

- Gentrytown Drive & Buchanan Road

Chairperson Thurston reported that he was attempting to make contact.

- Orchard Square

Chairperson Thurston stated he had no report, everything seemed to be going well.

- Somersville Town Center

Commissioner Eubanks reported a meeting was held today and it was a very mature group with various security measures in place. He noted an organizer was chosen and they were asking for Commission presence at the mall. He further noted that another meeting was tentatively scheduled.

Coordinator Ho added that they hoped to include many of the new shop owners at the next meeting.

Commissioner Eubanks reported that the manager of Macy's was concerned for grab and go crimes, and their ability to prosecute these types of offenses.

- Umpqua Bank

Commissioner LaPoint reported that she was attempting to make contact.

- Downtown Merchants

Commissioner Goodson reported that there had been no meetings; however, the group was well established and coordinated their Business Watch efforts. He noted he lived in the area and reported a break-in occurred next-door to his residence, which created a heightened interest in Business Watch.

- Antioch Marina

Commissioner Eubanks reported there was a preliminary meeting at the marina and an organizer had been chosen. He noted they had met the manager of Smith's Landing and due to the success of that business; there had been a reduction in crime in the area. He reported another meeting had been scheduled.

Coordinator Ho added that with the addition of Smith's Landing, the area had greatly improved, which was witnessed by people who lived on their boats as well as business owners in the area.

- Blue Rock Merchants

Commissioner White reported that she was attempting to make contact.

- E.10th St & L St Merchants

There was no report.

- Antioch Grocery Outlet

Chairperson Thurston reported that he was attempting to make contact.

- L St and Sycamore

Chairperson Thurston reported that he was attempting to make contact.

- West Tregallas Road & Lone Tree Way

Commissioner White reported that she was attempting to make contact.

- 1700 Cavallo Road/Rocketship Delta Prep

Commissioner Goodson reported that he was attempting to make contact.

- Worrell Road/Antioch Family Church

Commissioner Goodson reported that a very successful meeting was held 2-weeks ago. He noted they were interested in future meetings and expanding their outreach efforts. He stated a meal was served and it was a party atmosphere.

### **Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee – Report by Commissioner White**

Commissioner White reported the last meeting was held in November and despite advertising only a couple of people attended. She encouraged anyone interested in attending the February meeting; provide her with their email address so she could send them a notification when the date and time were confirmed.

### **Division of Block Captains by Commissioners – Report by Commissioner Goodson**

Commissioner Goodson reported that this task had been completed and could be removed from the agenda.

Coordinator Ho added that he had emailed out the Block Captain List to Commissioners and agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda. He explained that as the makeup of the Commission changed, so would assignments. He requested that this item become a quarterly update and announced that the next time it would be discussed would be in April.

### **Internet Technology Improvements – Report by Commissioner Eubanks**

Commissioner Eubanks reported that he had worked with Coordinator Ho and a lot of progress had been made with populating the share drive with Business Watch files and presentations. He noted the information was available for Commissioners to present at their meetings.

Following discussion, the Police Crime Prevention Commission agreed to hold a training session for the Google Drive. Coordinator Ho requested all Commissioners bring their computers and noted once that meeting was held, this item could be removed from future agendas. He further noted he would work with the new Chair to schedule the training session.

### **Business Watch Webpage – Report by Chairperson Thurston & Staff**

Chairperson Thurston stated that he had worked with Coordinator Ho and developed ideas for the Business Watch webpage.

Lieutenant Mendes added that she received the information and was in the process of giving it to the webmaster.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION (Continued from earlier in the agenda)**

“Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office” by Contra Costa County DA Diana Becton

Chairperson Thurston introduced Contra Costa County DA Diana Becton who gave an overview of the District Attorney’s Office which included the following information:

Their Mission –

- To seek justice and enhance public safety for all residents by thoroughly, ethically, aggressively, and efficiently prosecuting those who violate the law and by working to prevent crime.

Command Staff –

- Phyllis Redmond Chief of Staff
- Venus Johnson, Assistant District Attorney
- Dan Cabal, Assistant District Attorney
- Paul Mulligan, Chief of Inspectors
- Jason Chan, Chief of Administrative Services

Staffing –

- 101.5 Lawyers, 26 Investigative Staff/Sworn Officers, 17 Victim Witness Unit, 61 Support Staff Services for a total of 205.5
- Serve 1.1 million residents
- Work with 25 Law Enforcement Agencies/19 cities
- 2017 – Prosecuted 3489 felony cases and over 4500 misdemeanors that resulted in 110 Felony Jury Trials and 168 misdemeanor jury trial
- There were 14000 requests for prosecution in misdemeanor cases from law enforcement in the Country

Divisions –

- Western Operations Division
- Central Operations Division
- Superior Court Division
- Eastern Area Operation Division

Units –

- Community Violence Reduction/Gang Unit – Reduce violent crime through intervention, prevention and education
- FBI Safe Streets Task Force – Law Enforcement working with FBI – allows a concentration of resources on people and places
- Homicide Unit – Rigorously prosecute those who have killed others, works on community efforts such as Ceasefire
- Realignment and CCP – Community Corrections Partnership consisting of 7 voting members including the District Attorney, decides how proposition 47 resources are to be spent in the County
- Family Violence Unit – Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Elder/Dependent Abuse, Human Trafficking
- Juvenile Unit – Prosecutes criminal matters for those under the age 18, Anti-Truancy Initiative and Gift Program with the goal of keeping youth in school, gang prevention and gun safety, provides a holistic approach to families to keep children in school
- Victim Witness Unit – reduces trauma and insensitivity
- Special Operations Unit - Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection Cases, Workers Compensation Fraud, Public Assistance Fraud, Public Corruption Cases, Auto Insurance Fraud and Real Estate Fraud

Success starts with collaboration with law enforcement and other agencies throughout the county, as well as community based organizations, state and national leaders to bring best practices and resources to keep the community safe. They work together with all sectors and are committed to a victim-centered trauma informed and culturally sensitive approach.

Children's Interview Center –

- Run by Community Violence Solutions in partnership with the District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement
- Child friendly atmosphere, trained forensic interviewing with children, supports effective investigation of child abuse and other harm to children
- Provides standards and eliminates the amount of time the victim would be re-traumatized

**Budget –**

- Total \$41.7 million with over 90% made up of salaries and benefits
- Revenue comes from Local Sales Tax as well as Federal and State Grants
- Net costs to the County is \$19.6 million

**Highlights of the Last Year –**

- Community Academy goal to strengthen community relations inform community of the process, increase transparency/accessibility
- 85 applications were received with 23 were chosen to participate
- Excellent reviews were received
- Field trips were taken to the Court House, Crime Lab, Jail
- Police Chiefs throughout the County provided input
- Second Academy is planned for March with the applications process beginning in February
- Youth Academy is being planned for the future

**New Policy –**

- For investigations into fatal incidents involving law enforcement
- Protocols for investigations have been vetted and approved by all Police Chiefs in the County
- Team lead by experienced prosecutor conducts a parallel investigation
- Leading up to the coroner's investigation by the sheriff's department there is public airing of information received
- At the conclusion, DA Becton makes a decision as to whether or not any charges would be filed and the public is provided with access (online) to the report of the decision and how it was reached

**Family Violence Forum –**

- After statistics showed an increase in domestic violence in Pittsburg and Antioch the DA's office hosted a Family Violence Forum in October where information regarding law enforcement's response and available resources were brought to the community
- In the near future a Family Justice Center would be located in Antioch to address this issue

**Georgetown University –**

- DA's office was selected by Georgetown University to send a team of representative from various agencies to be a part of an intensive week with a goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system
- Following this training the team would design a project for Contra Costa County to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system and insure a thoughtful and deliberate collaboration occurred between all County agencies

Anti- Truancy –

- A greater importance to continue and expand resources
- Letters were sent to all schools informing them that they would be willing to host assemblies to bring awareness

Cold Case Homicide Unit –

- Greater chance now at solving with DNA
- Dedicated experienced Prosecutor was assigned to this unit to work with law enforcement agencies to solve unsolved homicides in Contra Costa County

Human Trafficking Unit (Sex and Labor) –

- Established in Contra Costa County to collaborate with agencies to bring a comprehensive approach to combat human trafficking
- DA Office received a grant from the Department of Justice and Office of Victims of Crime to support development of this unit

Future Endeavors –

- A law was passed requiring District Attorney's offices to dismiss old marijuana convictions that were no longer against the law
- Code 4 America Initiative – Developed a technological tool to help government learn how to be more efficient in finding old marijuana convictions that are no longer against the law
- Computer system reviews all files, separates felonies for personnel review and selects misdemeanors that can be uploaded to the court
- There is no cost to the Contra Costa County for participating

Conviction Integrity Unit –

- First in Contra Costa County that investigates claims of wrongful conviction, innocence and reviews cases where there may be a significant integrity issue

Vera Institute -

- DA office works in partnership with the Institute to review data and review prosecutorial decisions that were made and the effect they have had on the community and then determines whether any changes were needed to make the system

Impact Justice (for juveniles) –

- Diversion program for youth that use a restorative justice lens
- Very successful in Alameda County and San Francisco
- Will be piloted in Richmond

Neighborhood Courts –

- Seeking funding to address misdemeanors through neighborhood courts
- Community based pre-charging diversion program to resolve low-level misdemeanors and quality of life crimes
- DA currently looking at different models
- Hearing officers were trained in restorative justice model and practices

Mental Illness and Drug Addiction –

- Continue to work with criminal justice partners to encourage treatment of mental illness and drug addiction
- Out of 58 counties in California, Contra Costa County is in the top 15 that have a very high percentage of people that have been found to be incompetent to stand trial
- Contra Costa County has been targeted to receive money by the State for diversion program
- Many County agencies working together along with courts to develop program parameters and to determine if they would be applying for funding
- County has to provide a 20% match
- Pervasive issue throughout County and they were working on how to encourage treatment of mental illness and drug addiction as opposed to the criminalization

In response to the public and Commission, District Attorney Becton clarified the following:

- As programs were implemented they would be tracking success rates
- The Academy was one day a week for 12 weeks
- Antioch is the pilot for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program
- Law Enforcement can divert directly into services for drug use and mental health issues
- Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (C.O.R.E.) program worked closely with law enforcement and keeps detailed statistics
- Capital Punishment – there had been less than five cases
- Appeals process for Capital Punishment cases can take years and substantial resources
- They suggest law enforcement bundle cases for persons who have become a nuisance in the community and are arrested repeatedly
- DA met with mall managers to hear issues and concerns

- They would be putting together a working group including the mall managers and law enforcement to strategize around the County
- Crime spiked up when new laws making crimes of \$950.00 or less misdemeanors

A resident applauded DA Becton for the transparency and not being punitive with those struggling with drug use, and mental health.

Commissioner Eubanks congratulated DA Becton for being elected and thanked her for the presentation.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

Coordinator Ho reported he would be imputing the Business Watch database into the share drive and he would email Commissioners when it was complete so they could input their data.

## **8. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (This item was heard after Agenda Item #10)**

## **9. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Commission**

Commissioner Thurston encouraged residents to report all suspicious activity to the Antioch Police Department and stay involved in their neighborhoods.

### **Staff**

Coordinator Ho requested Commissioners inform him when they schedule Neighborhood Watch meetings so that they could be calendared.

## **9. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR – (Continued from earlier in the agenda)**

On motion by Commissioner LaPoint, seconded by Chairperson Thurston, the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously appointed Commissioner White at Chair. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint, Goodson and Chairperson Thurston

Commissioner Thurston turned the gavel over to newly appointed Chairperson White.

On motion by Chairperson White, seconded by Commissioner Thurston, the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously appointed Commissioner LaPoint as Vice Chair. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Thurston, Eubanks, LaPoint, Goodson and Chairperson White

Chairperson White the following meeting/presentation/event schedule.

**10. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS**

- February 20, 2019 – Crime Prevention Commission meeting
- February 2, 2019 – Neighborhood Clean Up – Fremont Elementary School

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Davidson questioned why Antioch Police Department was not enforcing the new law requiring car license plates.

Lieutenant Mendes reported that the Antioch Police Department enforced many traffic offenses; however, there were only two dedicated traffic units in a City of 114,000 people. She stated when staffing expanded, so would the traffic unit. She noted the law had just gone into effect on January 1, 2019, so any vehicles purchased prior to that may not have had temporary license plates issued to them. She further noted there were delays with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes: Commissioners Thurston, Eubanks, LaPoint, Goodson and Chairperson White

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 20, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

*Kitty Eiden*

KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk