

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
February 17, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gadams called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M., on February 17, 2016 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Taylor, Parham, Solorio, Thurston, and Chairperson Gadams

Absent: Commissioners Williams and Davis

Staff: Lieutenant, Desmond Bittner
Corporal, Matt Koch
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

Lieutenant Bittner gave a brief personal and professional history. He introduced Corporal Koch in attendance this evening.

Chairperson Gadams thanked Lieutenant Bittner for his service.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 16, 2015 and January 20, 2016)

On motion by Commissioner Gadams, seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the minutes of November 16, 2015 and January 20, 2016 as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kiran Singh, Antioch resident, stated she had reported her garbage can stolen and she was concerned regarding how the Antioch Police Department had handled the issue.

Lieutenant Bittner responded that he would be available to discuss this matter with Ms. Singh after the meeting and she could contact Republic Waste Services for a replacement garbage can.

Chairperson Gadams suggested Ms. Singh contact neighbors to determine if they had witnessed anything.

Laura Padraza, representing the Center for Human Development Alcohol Prevention Program, provided an update of their operations in coordination with the Antioch Police Department. She distributed the "Enforcement Times" newsletters to the audience.

In response to Chairperson Gadams, Ms. Padraza stated the Human Development Alcohol Prevention Program was funded through May.

5. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Mike Gadams, Business Watch

Chairperson Gadams gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Business Watch program which included the following:

- Business Watch Introduction
- General Vision
- Business Watch Team
- Mimicking Antioch Neighborhood Watch Principals
- Key Players
- Local Implementation
- Benefits
- Contents of the Business Watch Folders

He introduced Sean Wright President of the Chamber of Commerce and Terry Ramus Diablo Analytical as members of the Business Watch Team.

Dr. Sean Wright thanked the community for their participation in Neighborhood Watch and Commissioners for bringing the Business Watch Program to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce. He noted their goal was to duplicate Neighborhood Watch in an effort to educate, empower and build relationships to make a safer community and retain businesses in Antioch.

Terry Ramus discussed the impact of criminal activity on business and the value of the Neighborhood and Business Watch programs. He reported they had had a problem with illegal activity occurring in their parking lot and with the assistance of Coordinator Ho and Lieutenant Kelly they had implemented safety measures that significantly reduced criminal behavior. He noted they now only occasionally required assistance from Code Enforcement, the Antioch Police Department and Republic Waste Services.

Dr. Wright complimented Mr. Ramus noting the partnerships he had developed with Neighborhood Watch and the Antioch Police Department resulted in the elimination of drag racing, an illegal marijuana grow and solicitation of prostitution in his Business Park.

Commissioner Thurston stated reducing crime at businesses also resulted in reducing crime in adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Chairperson Gadams stated the feedback received from the business community was that they were uncertain how to implement a program in their area. He noted this program would empower, educate and provide resources for those individuals.

A speaker identifying herself as the Manager at Costco spoke to the value of building relationships with the Antioch Police Department and neighboring businesses.

Chairperson Gadams stated it was important to put together a complete program that was easily understood by the business community. He noted the Business Watch Program would be presented to the City Council and he encouraged anyone supporting this endeavor contact the City Council to voice their support of the program.

Kiran Singh, Antioch resident, expressed concern for shopping carts being left throughout the City by the homeless.

b. Formation of Subcommittee for Report to City Council

Coordinator Ho stated the Formation of Subcommittee for Report to City Council was on the agenda at the request of the Commission. He suggested they select three members to serve on the subcommittee to draft a report which would be discussed and finalized at the March Police Crime Prevention Commission.

Chairperson Gadams added the goal was to provide annual reports to the City Council on the Neighborhood Watch program.

Following discussion, Commissioners Thurston, Parham and Chairperson Gadams agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

On motion by Chairperson Gadams, seconded by Commissioner Parham, the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the formation of a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Thurston, Parham and Chairperson Gadams, to draft a report to Council and bring it back to the Commission on March 21, 2016 for input and approval.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Solorio reported on his attendance at City Council meetings and noted they had approved hiring two laborers to address blight and collect shopping carts throughout the City.

In response to a member of the audience, Commissioner Solorio explained shopping carts were required to be labeled as property of the store.

Commissioner Parham added if carts were in the possession of an individual it became a Police Department issue.

Commissioner Solorio explained shopping cart wheels were required to be locking to prevent them from being taken from parking lots. He reported the City had hired a contracted parking enforcement/vehicle abatement crew to address issues on public property. He encouraged residents to read City Manager Duran's weekly reports on the City's website, which included crime reports. He commented the City of Stockton had lost 184 officers in the last two years and were currently down 80 sworn officers.

Chairperson Gadams thanked Commissioner Solorio for attending and reporting out from City Council meetings.

Commissioner Parham stated many shopping carts had the ordinance and contact information on them. She noted the State shopping cart ordinance was an unfunded mandate; however, the City had hired a contractor to be proactive in addressing the issue. She further noted residents could also contact the number provided on the shopping cart and request pick up. She reported many residents received phone calls from the IRS threatening arrest for nonpayment. She clarified the IRS would never contact or request personal information over the telephone. She noted another issue involved people who went out of town for the weekend, leaving their dogs under the care of a neighbor and at times resulted in the dog barking the entire weekend. She explained sustained barking over 30 minutes was a violation of City code and residents should document it and report it to Animal Services. She also noted rescue organizations addressed issues when a dog was suffering in the absence of their owner. Speaking to personal experience, she noted when she informed neighbors of barking issues, problems had been resolved.

Commissioner Solorio announced the Simply Safe alarm system had been reported in the news to be vulnerable to hackers.

Commissioner Thurston reported on his attendance at a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Casa Del Rio Apartments and noted the manager of that facility had received requests from other apartment complexes in the neighborhood. He stated that he had received an email from "Paypal" that his account was no longer valid and would be shut down. He noted after he had provided personal information he became aware that it was a fictitious email which resulted in having to close his credit card account that had already been used to purchase items. He explained the valid name was "PayPal" and residents should be cautious when checking the URL and/or call the company of origin to verify authenticity.

The manager of Costco reported a member had informed her that when she applied for a job, the website requested credit card information. She stated she informed the

member that Costco did not solicit credit card information from applicants and they had not accessed an official Costco website.

Chairperson Gadams stated there was also a virus that would locked you out of your computer if you clicked on a link and they would request payment to allow you to regain access.

Commissioner Parham stated this issue had happened to her sister who had all her records locked. She stated there was also a fraudulent link for history.com that was distributed through facebook requesting credit card information for live streaming to your personal computer.

Commissioner Thurston cautioned residents that people were receiving fraudulent calls from individuals identifying themselves as representatives from Microsoft requesting access to personal computers to resolve a conflict. He stated he had received complaints regarding people breaking car windows to burglarize vehicles and suggested resident's park vehicles in garages, place valuables out of sight, remove garage door openers and lock their doors.

In response to Commissioner Thurston, Lieutenant Bittner announced the Antioch Police Department was accepting applications for the Citizen's Academy with a deadline date of February 22, 2016. He noted the program would run for 10 weeks and anyone interested in participating could contact him after the meeting.

Commissioner Thurston added the Citizen's Academy was a great experience and very beneficial. He encouraged residents to participate. He requested fellow Commissioners contact 20 Neighborhood Watch Captains prior to the next meeting and report out on input received.

Commissioner Taylor reported she had participated in a Neighborhood Watch meeting for an older community who were concerned regarding break-ins and looking for cost effective ways to secure belongings. She provided examples of product containers that had been reused and recycled to store valuables. She reported there were many motorcycles and all terrain vehicles at a vacant lot in her neighborhood. She questioned if individuals who required emergency services when they got stuck, were billed.

Lieutenant Bittner stated that typically they were not billed; however they could receive a misdemeanor citation for trespassing.

b. Staff

Lieutenant Bittner recognized Commissioners for doing an awesome job and discussed the importance of being proactive in stopping criminal behavior. He encouraged residents to participate in the Citizen's Academy.

Corporal Koch reported he had received a call from someone falsely identifying themselves as the IRS. He warned residents that identity theft was a huge issue with a lot of it stemming from mail theft. He encouraged residents to utilize the next-door app and consider installing locking mailboxes.

In response to Chairperson Gadams, Lieutenant Bittner reported the traffic unit worked Tuesday – Friday and officers had been conducting proactive details for criminal and traffic issues.

Kiran Singh stated the IRS would only contact people in writing by mail.

Janie Yuds, reported a resident in her Neighborhood Watch meeting informed her that the Antioch Police Department had contacted her requesting a social security number.

Lieutenant Bittner responded that Antioch Police Department would not ask for a social security number over the phone; however, they could contact an individual for follow up to a case. He noted if there was a concern regarding information asked for over the phone, residents could request a personal visit.

Commissioner Thurston stated if a resident suspected identity theft, they could get purchase LifeLock or contact the credit rating bureau and request a fraud watch.

In response to a speaker, Lieutenant Bittner reported an individual was carjacked at Rite Aid and during that incident; the victim had shot and killed the carjacker.

Chairperson Gadams stated Antiochtopix.com was a good resource for information online.

Commissioner Parham stated she had received feedback from Neighborhood Watch participants that they were afraid of retaliation and they did not want to be a snitch. She stated she had pointed out that reporting suspicious activity was taking care of neighbors.

Chairperson Gadams thanked everyone for attending this evening and urged them to always report suspicious activity. He noted call sheets were available and anyone needing one could contact a Commissioner.

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- March 5, 2016 - Neighborhood Clean-up
- March 21, 2016 - Police Crime Prevention Meeting

Chairperson Gadams announced the Commission would be appointing a new Chair and Vice Chair at the next Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Thurston, seconded by Commissioner Parham, the Police Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:18 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 21, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.