

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
February 21, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on February 21, 2018 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint and Chairperson Thurston
Absent: Commissioner Parham

Staff: Sergeant, Powell Meads
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

3. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Thurston led the audience in a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida as well as all victims of gun violence and the Antioch Police Department officers who risk their lives to protect the public. He discussed the manner in which the meeting would be conducted. He announced copies of a City Department phone listing and Police Crime Prevention Mission Statement were available in the community room. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and first time attendees introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 17, 2018)

Chairperson Thurston amended page 9, section 12, the last paragraph to read: "Chairperson Thurston suggested residents designate a safe place in their house and not to confront anyone trying to break in to their residence."

On motion by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Eubanks the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of January 17, 2018 as amended. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint and Chairperson Thurston
Absent: Commissioner Parham

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

6. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

Livia Pop, Senior Emergency Planning Coordinator - Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Division gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Community Warning System which included the following information:

- Community Warning System was developed by Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) to deal with hazmat for refineries and chemical plants in Contra Costa County
- Community Warning System was donated to Contra Costa Health Service Hazmat Unit in 2001 and in 2003 it was donated to the Sheriff's office
- Community Warning System was funded from chemical plants due to their risk to the community
- Community Warning System goals were to alert, inform and reassure the public about imminent threat to life and health
- Community Warning System provided basic information so the public could protect themselves
- Community Warning System was also utilized for missing people (not Amber Alerts) and law enforcement activity
- There were 42 sirens in Contra Costa County – tested weekly on Wednesday at 11:00 A.M.
- In a real emergency sirens sound for 3 minutes and every 30 minutes thereafter
- If sirens were sounded residents should shelter in place
- EAS or WEA alerts on TV were activated for large disasters
- Community Warning System voice, text and email alerts could be received by registering on the public website
- Alerts were sent based on the threat to your area
- Action is power - register cell phones, encouraged relatives/neighbors to register cell phones, if system is activated shelter in place (go inside and shut all doors and windows), stay off the phone and do not call 911 unless there is an emergency
- Sirens have their own power source
- Weather radios were a great way to monitor alerts if there is no power
- Community Warning System sends out an official all clear status when health officials declare it is appropriate
- Community Warning System terminals existed in all refineries and chemical plants which were activated automatically if there was a hazmat incident
- All other incidents were activated by a Community Warning System Duty Officer who was on call 24/7
- The system was activated if requested, on behalf of the Incident Commander from law enforcement, fire, PG&E or any other agency that had the authority
- Phone numbers were provided with each alert for anyone needing additional information

- Community Warning System Duty Officer would have a conversation with the commander on scene to determine if it was appropriate to activate system
- Community Warning System would not activate if there was no imminent threat to life and health
- For all alerts and to register your information go to the website cococws.us
- Alerts were also posted on facebook and twitter
- All residents should assemble an emergency kit for their home and vehicle, a grab and go bag with important documents/supplies, make and practice an emergency plan, get involved, place important documents in the cloud or on a flash drive, designate a meeting point
- Last time the sirens were activated was in 2012 for an incident at Chevron in Richmond

Ms. Pop provided the following contact information:

- Email - ipop0001@so.cccounty.us
- Phone - 925-313-9635
- Website - cococws.us

Chairperson Thurson thanked Ms. Pop for the presentation and encouraged residents to develop and practice their emergency plans.

Ms. Pop announced that her business cards and Community Warning System pamphlets were available in the community room this evening.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Business Watch Implementation – Status / issues / next step

Chairperson Thurston announced a new Business Watch group was formed in the Gentrytown Drive/Buchanan Road area. He expressed his appreciation to the Community Engagement Team (CET) and Code Enforcement for participating in that meeting. He noted that they had provided input to assist the group in resolving loitering issues in the area. He explained that Business Watch was the same concept as Neighborhood Watch. He noted additional Business Watch groups were being established in the following areas:

- Downtown merchants
- 18th and L Street merchants
- Bluerock merchants - Lone Tree Way/Bluerock Drive/Golf Course Road – meeting scheduled for 2:00 P.M. on February 28, 2018

Commissioner Eubanks offered to attend the Business Watch meeting for the Bluerock merchants.

Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee

Commissioner White reported she cancelled the January Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee meeting because she was ill and she would be rescheduling it for March. She requested any Block Captains interested in attending provide her with their contact information so she could send out invitations when a date was determined.

Commissioner Followup on Block Captain Verification Calls

Chairperson Thurston reported that there were 478 Neighborhood Watch groups in Antioch and 408 Block Captain calls had been completed to determine their status. He noted the remaining calls would be completed by the March Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting. He stated out of the 408 completed calls, 251 were active and 157 were inactive. He announced once the calls were completed and they had a mapping, the Neighborhood Watch groups would be divided equally among the Commissioners so that they could serve as the contact person for their areas.

In response to a speaker, Chairperson Thurston commented that there was an active Business Watch at the Somersville Towne Center.

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commission

Commissioner Eubanks announced he had been sworn-in for another term on the Police Crime Prevention Commission and he was proud to be part of the Commission. He reported he had been making his Block Captain Verification Calls and updating the database. He noted that those he had spoken with were very friendly and community service oriented. He reported on his attendance at the Public Works Quality of Life meeting on February 6, 2018 and noted that he was able to direct some people who attended that meeting to Neighborhood Watch and the Police Crime Prevention Commission meetings. He suggested the Commission consider the feasibility of electronic Neighborhood Watch and utilizing social media tools to improve communication.

Chairperson Thurston responded that the Commission could present the idea and make recommendations to the City while working with Antioch Police Department to determine the feasibility of utilizing social media for that purpose.

Commissioner Eubanks reported he had attended a special City Council meeting in which they discussed converting from at-large elections to district-based elections. He encouraged residents to attend the public hearings on this item and provide their input on how to best divide the districts.

Larry Harrison commented that the City had emphasized that they had not approved the conversion to district-based elections yet.

Commissioner Eubanks reported that many of the opinions expressed at the Council meeting were opposed to converting to district-based elections.

Chairperson Thurston suggested anyone with questions regarding this issue contact the City Council and attend their meetings.

Commissioner LaPoint reported on her attendance at Coffee with Cops and encouraged Neighborhood Watch groups to participate in future events.

Chairperson Thurston added that future events would be posted on the Antioch Police Department webpage and when a date was determined the information would be passed on to Neighborhood Watch groups.

Commissioner White reminded residents to refrain from leaving any belongings in their vehicles noting that recently she had witnessed broken glass in parking lots from break-ins. She further noted the City sent out information on how to secure vehicles, in last month's water bills. She reported that with the decrease in home burglaries, there had been an increase in vehicle burglaries.

Chairperson Thurston cautioned residents that there was a scam involving Bank of America in which people were being asked to re-register their account. He noted the log in was not legitimate and they were attempting to obtain the customer's account information. He urged residents to be mindful and contact their banks directly. He urged residents to call in all suspicious activity and encouraged Neighborhood Watch groups in need of more signs to contact the Commission.

Commissioner Eubanks suggested that the Commission consider printing all City emergency and Neighborhood Watch information on the back side of the Neighborhood Watch signs.

Staff

Coordinator Ho reported that interviews for the new Commissioners would be held on February 22, 2018.

Chairperson Thurston added that a full Commission would allow them to be more responsive and interactive with the public.

Chairperson Thurston announced the following meeting/presentation and event schedule:

10. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- March 3, 2018 – Neighborhood Clean Up – Belshaw Elementary School parking lot , at 9:00 A.M.
- March 19, 2018 – Crime Prevention Commission meeting

Chairperson Thurston stated that Neighborhood Clean Up events improved neighborhoods making them less of a target for criminal activity. He noted that he encouraged Business Watch groups to hold their own clean up events in their areas.

In response to a speaker, Coordinator Ho explained that he drove around the City to determine which area was in need and then chose them for Neighborhood Clean Up sites, subject to the approval of the Antioch Police Department. He noted if anyone had ideas for locations they could be submitted to him for consideration.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

A speaker questioned what the responsibilities were for Neighborhood Watch Block Captains.

Chairperson Thurston responded that Block Captains were the lead for Neighborhood Watch groups and organized meetings.

Coordinator Ho stated he could look up the speakers address to determine if there was an active Neighborhood Watch group in his area and if he was interested, he would also provide him with the Block Captains Guide.

A speaker reported a person had come to her door stating they represented PG&E and requested to see her bill. She stated she told him to come back on Saturday; however, she was nervous about giving him her information.

Chairperson Thurston suggested that the speaker call PG&E to inform them that someone representing the company was at her home and if they showed up again to call the Antioch Police Department non-emergency number.

Chairperson Thurston urged residents to refrain from opening their doors if they did not know the person on the other side.

Larry Harrison warned residents that there was an Apple computer account email scam.

A speaker stated he had attended the Public Works Quality of Life meeting. He reported that he had witnessed someone attempting to graffiti a wall in his neighborhood. He noted that he believed Neighborhood Watch was a great way to educate the public and start improving moral and respect for neighborhoods.

Chairperson Thurston warned residents to refrain from attempting to resolve issues themselves and report them to Antioch Police Department non-emergency line unless they felt physically threatened, in which case, they should call 911 immediately. He noted all calls were logged and followed up on.

Sergeant Meads stated there were currently 96 Antioch Police Department officers, 8-9 per shift and double that during overlap times for a population of approximately 113,000. He noted calls were answered based on priority; however, they followed up on all calls. He further noted the Community Engagement Team (CET) team worked with the homeless communities and the City was making great strides forward.

Commissioner Eubanks stated if the previous speaker joined Neighborhood Watch, there may be an opportunity for an officer to talk with their group.

A resident stated that graffiti could be reported via the seeclickfix app.

Sergeant Meads stated if anyone witnessed someone actively committing a crime such as vandalism, they should call the Antioch Police Department. He noted a crime in progress was a higher priority.

Mark Davidson asked if there was a height/area restriction for news helicopter.

Sergeant Meads stated he was unaware of any height or area restrictions.

A resident stated when the Jaycee Dugard incident was occurring they dealt with news helicopters for days.

Sergeant Meads stated it was rare that Antioch dealt with national level incidents.

Chairperson Thurston reminded residents that Individual and Family Emergency Preparedness Guides were available on the back table.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint and Chairperson Thurston

Absent: Commissioner Parham

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.