

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
March 16, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gadams called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M., on March 16, 2015 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Taylor led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Cook, Augusta, Taylor, Williams and Chairperson Gadams
Absent: Commissioners Davis and Parham (Commissioner Parham arrived at 7:05 P.M.)

Staff: Chief of Police, Allan Cantando
Acting Lieutenant, Trevor Schnitzius
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 21, 2015)

On motion by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Augusta the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of March 21, 2015 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jacqueline Higgins, Antioch resident, reported she witnessed people entering a vacant home in her neighborhood and informed Code Enforcement squatters had been living in the residence. She stated she witnessed four people entering the home this evening and she reported the incident to the Antioch Police Department non-emergency line.

Commissioner Parham arrived at 7:05 P.M.

Commissioner Cook suggested Ms. Higgins discuss this matter with Chief Cantando or Acting Lieutenant Schnitzius, after the meeting.

Melissa Jefferson, Antioch resident, introduced herself as the Block Captain for her Neighborhood Watch group and stated she was setting up a website for participants in her area. She stated her goal was to be an asset for the law enforcement.

Chairperson Gadams reported Ms. Jefferson's first Neighborhood Watch meeting was very successful.

Rochelle Villa stated she witnessed men jumping fences and when she reported the incident to Antioch Dispatch and a Police Officer in the area, they both responded unprofessionally. She stated she had not received a response to the complaint she filed regarding this incident.

Chairperson Gadams encouraged Ms. Villa to discuss the matter with Chief Cantando.

Chief Cantando stated he would investigate the complaint.

Chairperson Gadams recognized Councilmembers Tiscareno and Ogorchock in attendance this evening. He also recognized new Neighborhood Watch participants who introduced themselves and he thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Heather-Lark Curtin, JD – Conflict Resolution Programs

Heather-Lark Curtin Community Mediation Coordinator introduced Barbara Proctor Director for Conflict Resolution Programs at the Center for Human Development. They gave a power point presentation of the Center for Human Development - Conflict Resolution Programs - Community Mediation, Guardianship Mediations and AB109 Family Reunification which included the following information:

- General Cases
- Mediation and Referral Process – Types of Cases/Sources of Referrals
- General Dispute Resolution
- What is the Process – Case Development/Mediation
- Results

They announced business cards and brochures were available in the community room this evening.

In response to the public, Ms. Curtin explained their main office was in Concord; however, if clients lived in Antioch they could find a local venue for mediation. She clarified for animal related issues; Animal Services would send a letter to both parties referring them to mediation. Ms. Proctor announced mediation training would be

occurring in the near future and encouraged everyone to consider participating in the program.

b. Sub Committee: Garbage and Recycling Bins

Chairperson Gadams stated Commission Davis had initiated this item and due to his absence, it would be postponed to the next Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Cook reported he had received numerous traffic complaints at his Neighborhood Watch meetings. He announced there were new pamphlets for REACH available this evening in the community room. He informed the audience that it was Commissioner Augusta's last meeting and spoke to his personal and professional accomplishments. He stated it had been a pleasure to work with him on the Police Crime Prevention Commission and he would be missed. He announced he would also be resigning from the Commission next month.

Commissioner Parham reported she was continuing to work on establishing a program to grow vines on retaining walls in an effort to abate graffiti. She stated the Neighborhood Watch group for Hudson Court had indicated a shooting that occurred in their area was not in their project. She added that their Community Center Director had invited a member of Cleaning Up Antioch, One Home at a Time to demonstrate how to start plantings. She announced she had REACH and other handouts available in Spanish. She suggested residents frustrated with dispatch; ask if they could participate in a sit-along and spoke to the skills and professionalism of Antioch Dispatchers. She noted many times when dispatch placed a call on hold; they were relaying information to a patrol officer.

Commissioner Taylor encouraged residents to keep exterior lights on at night to deter criminal activity and stated if anyone had input as to how to promote this idea, they could contact her after the meeting. She reported on her attendance at the Neighborhood Cleanup event and questioned how neighborhoods were selected.

Chief Cantando explained locations were typically chosen by Lieutenant Aguinaga and the goal was to move it to different locations throughout the City. He stated at times locations were based on requests. He noted they preferred participants remain in the area designated because reserve officers patrolled that area for volunteer safety.

Commissioner Williams reported the head of security at Deer Valley Plaza had explained that keeping the patrols in pairs was more effective during training. She questioned if there was an ordinance pertaining to soliciting in Antioch.

Chief Cantando explained solicitors had to obtain a business license in the City. He noted those without licenses, when told they would be reported to the Antioch Police Department, generally leave the area. He cautioned that these types of calls were responded to based on priority; however, he encouraged residents to make the calls to let police dispatch prioritize them.

Commissioner Williams encouraged residents interested in serving on the Police Crime Prevention Commission; apply with the City of Antioch. She announced a landscape workshop would be held on April 25, 2015 at the Antioch Community Center.

Commissioner Augusta announced this was his last meeting as a Police Crime Prevention Commissioner and it had been a pleasure to work with the Commission and the people involved in Neighborhood Watch. He spoke to participating in a traveling theater group.

Chairperson Gadams stated it had been a pleasure working with Commissioner Augusta and presented him with a card and cake in recognition of his hard work. He announced there were two openings on the Commission and encouraged residents to become involved. He acknowledged Commissioners Augusta and Cook for their contributions to the Commission. He stated he was dedicated to providing Neighborhood Watch participants with good meetings and would be seeking out quality presentations and topics of discussion for each meeting in an effort to disperse information that would improve neighborhoods. He stated anyone with ideas for topics could email them to him or Coordinator Ho.

b. Staff

Coordinator Ho encouraged residents witnessing suspicious circumstances to report it directly to the Antioch Police Department non-emergency number. He announced the Sales Tax Citizens' Oversight Committee would be making a presentation to the City Council at their March 24, 2015 meeting. He stated the formal announcement for National Night Out would occur at the April Police Crime Prevention meeting and applications for the \$100.00 grants would be available, at that time. He noted he would also email applications to Block Captains.

Chief Cantando thanked Commissioner Augusta for his years of service. He reported traffic was one of the most common complaints he received and recently officers working traffic enforcement made arrests for reckless driving. He reported he recently became aware of a complaint on social media regarding the rudeness of police dispatch. He stated he pulled the dispatch tapes and determined those calls did not meet a level of rudeness and he would be contacting the individual to have her come in and listen to the tapes. He stated at times dispatch was attempting to get information in a particular order so they could relay information to an officer in a timely manner. He encouraged residents with complaints to contact him directly through the Police Department's website so that they could be investigated. He encouraged the community to attend the March 24, 2015 City Council meeting to listen to the report

from the Sales Tax Citizens' Oversight Committee. He reported since January 1, 2014 the City had hired nineteen (19) police officers; however, there had been some lost due to retirements, not completing training and resignations. He spoke to a recent article in the Contra Costa Times where he discussed the lack of qualified applicants and noted he would not lower standards to increase staffing. He commented that they were continuing to hire as quickly as possible.

In response to Chairperson Gadams, Chief Cantando stated once officers completed the field training program, per the COPS grant, he had an obligation to put an officer in the Sycamore Corridor. He noted that officer would have a cover officer and would be involved in the crime free multi-housing project. Additionally, he noted his goal was to assign a full time traffic officer and a school resource officer.

Chairperson Gadams reported the Pizza with Police event was very successful and channel 2 covered the event and provided a positive report.

Chief Cantando stated there were many positive things happening in Antioch and the goal was to disperse that information to the community. He attributed the success of the Antioch Police Department to Neighborhood Watch participants and encouraged the community to continue to be involved and call in all suspicious activity. He stated the Pizza with Police/Coffee with the Cops events were held quarterly and the next one would be in May.

Chairperson Gadams encouraged residents to attend the Coffee with the Cops/Pizza with the Police events. He announced the following events:

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. April 20, 2015 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting**
- b. April 4, 2015 – Neighborhood Clean-up - TBD**

Ed Judkins, Antioch resident, reported at last Crime Prevention Commission meeting many speakers expressed concern regarding traffic; however, when he left the last meeting several attendees failed to stop at the stop sign.

In response to Steve Huddleston, Coordinator Ho stated when he became involved in Neighborhood Watch twelve (12) years ago, there were less than one-hundred (100) block captains and now there were over five-hundred (500), which he attributed to the hard work of Commissioners and the Antioch Police Department.

Chief Cantando added the Neighborhood Watch program was in place when he began working with the City twenty eight (28) years ago.

J.R Wilson, Antioch resident, reported they had an issue with some squatters in his neighborhood and members of his Neighborhood Watch group had reported it to the Antioch Police Department who had resolved the situation.

A speaker expressed concern that a resident moved into the neighborhood and had a trailer full of trash in the driveway. She stated she reported in incident to the Code Enforcement Department who stated they could not do anything because the trailer was on the driveway. She noted the trash was now collecting on the side of the house.

Chief Cantando stated if it was a health hazard, the speaker should contact Code Enforcement again to notify them that the situation was getting worse.

Commissioner Williams suggested the speaker contact Lori Cook after the meeting to discuss the matter.

Eric Fuller, Antioch resident, expressed concern regarding speeding traffic through his neighborhood.

Chief Cantando responded that a traffic officer working problem areas would improve the situation.

Fred Nunez, Antioch resident, questioned if it would be advantageous for residents to obtain license plate numbers and photos of speeders. Additionally he asked if it was illegal to dump trash in business receptacles.

In response to Mr. Nunez, Chief Cantando clarified an officer had to witness an infraction to be able to hold them accountable and it was illegal for people to dump their trash in business receptacles.

Alexis Fisher, Antioch resident, questioned what it would take to develop a traffic division of more than one officer.

Chief Cantando reported six (6) years ago the City had one hundred twenty six (126) police officers with three (3) traffic units with a supervisor; however, because of attrition and not hiring, the numbers had decreased. He noted as staffing levels improved, they would increase various units. He stated he recognized the issues and the importance of proactive enforcement. He stated currently there were eighty eight (88) officers, three (3) more were in the academy and they had a conditional offer to a lateral police officer. He noted oral boards were held today for those attempting to get into the May academy.

Alexis Fisher discussed the positive impact school resource officers had on her appreciation for the Police Department and voiced her support for that program being reinstated. She questioned what the law was for bonfires in front yards.

Chief Cantando suggested Ms. Fisher contact the fire department regarding the bonfire issue.

Janet Farr, Antioch resident, questioned if it was possible to get permanent signs installed that displayed speed limits vs. actual speed.

Chief Cantando suggested Ms. Farr discuss this issue with City Engineer/Director of Public Works Bernal.

In response to a speaker, Acting Lieutenant Schnitzius clarified panhandling was illegal and they actively issued citations when they were reported. He noted if people stopped giving money, panhandling would cease and he encouraged residents to report panhandlers to the police department's non-emergency number.

Chief Cantando added that at times the Antioch Police Department did not stop when they witnessed panhandlers because they were in the process of answering a higher priority call.

A speaker asked if new residents were given the City codes.

In response to a speaker, Chief Cantando stated he did not believe new residents were given a copy of City codes.

Janie Yuds responded that her realtor provided her with a binder that included the city codes when she purchased her home.

Chairperson Gadams explained that typically the HOA provided City codes to residents within their area. He stated that with increased revenues he was hopeful that Code Enforcement would be expanding.

Lori Cook, Cleaning Up Antioch, One Home at a Time, explained dispatch asked questions in a particular sequence so that they could relay officers the information they needed to respond appropriately. She stated she would post information on her facebook page regarding how to provide information to the dispatcher in the proper sequence.

Coordinator Ho agreed and stated that at times a dispatcher interrupted callers so that they could get information in the proper sequence to keep officers safe.

Lori Cook also suggested callers try to remain calm and write down information.

Chief Cantando explained dispatchers were trained to take control of the conversation and ask the questions needed to get the necessary information. He noted the sense of rudeness was when a caller attempted to anticipate what information that was needed. He stated simply stating a crime was occurring and letting dispatch ask questions was more beneficial. He stated he did not expect dispatch to be rude and if they were they were dealt with; however, if people are saying the dispatcher was rude and they are not, he will tell them and provide an explanation.

In response to Commissioner Parham, Chief Cantando clarified dispatch not aware of the location of a call until it was answered. He stated they then attempted to get basic information so that they could enter it and officers could view the initial details. He noted that at that time, the dispatcher supplemented calls with additional information. He recognized the professionalism of Antioch Police Dispatchers and noted their goal was to get information to the officer so that they could be more effective and safe when they arrived on scene.

Chairperson Gadams thanked Chief Cantando for attending the meeting this evening. He acknowledged Councilmember Ogorchock and Councilmember Tiscareno for also attending. He recognized all Neighborhood Watch participants for attending and suggested they encourage more residents to attend. He thanked Heather-Lark Curtin and Barbara Proctor Director for the presentation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Augusta the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 20, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.