

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
March 17, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M., on March 17, 2014 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2, ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Hayes, Augusta, Taylor, Williams, Davis, Gadams and Chairperson Cook

Staff: Chief of Police, Allan Cantando
Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Augusta led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3, APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February 19, 2014)

On motion by Commissioner Gadams, seconded by Commissioner Augusta the Crime Prevention Commission members unanimously approved the minutes of February 19, 2014 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The new Neighborhood Watch Block Captains introduced themselves.

Don Freitas discussed the importance of making public safety a priority and reported the Friday Morning Breakfast Club had studied and discussed ways to increase revenue for the police department. He stated in an effort to have landlords pay their fair share of a business license fee, they would be moving forward on a citizens' initiative. He announced that they would be publishing information in the newspaper and they were seeking signatures of registered voters to put the initiative on the ballot for November 2014. He noted revenue generated from the fee, would specifically be targeted to hire more sworn officers, code enforcement and CSOs. He provided contact information for

anyone wishing to become involved in the campaign and announced petitions would be available after publication of the initiative.

In response to public speakers, Mr. Freitas stated he could provide petitions to the Neighborhood Watch groups and he would be available to answer questions after the meeting. Speaking to Section 8 rentals, he explained that that was a federal program and local government could not usurp the power of the Federal Government.

Chairperson Cook reported that the City Council did not support putting this initiative on the last ballot to avoid having completing measures, with a result being that neither would pass.

Linda Soloven, Antioch resident, expressed concern regarding excessive speeding and unsafe driving along Golf Course Road. She suggested the City stamp 25 MPH in the street and the Antioch Police Department patrol the area, once a week. She stated she was the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain for her court and would be interested in joining another Neighborhood Watch group in the vicinity.

Chairperson Cook suggested Ms. Soloven meet with Coordinator Ho after the meeting to receive information on Neighborhood Watch groups in her area.

Chief Cantando, Antioch resident, stated he lives in the area, understands Ms. Soloven's concerns and he would give the information to City Engineer Bernal to determine if stamping the asphalt was an option. He noted as police department staffing increased there would be more opportunities for traffic enforcement. He stated, having an officer patrol the area once a week was not feasible however there could be more patrols in the area. He commented that speed bumps and tables offer different solutions and problems and that conversation should be with City Engineer Bernal.

Mary Lopez, Antioch resident, offered her services as interpreter for Chief Cantando for the next Coffee with the Cops event, for Spanish speaking residents. She expressed concern for speeding traffic on Contra Loma Blvd. and the safety of pedestrians attempting to cross the street into the shopping center. She also expressed concern for youth who wear their pants too low and suggested something be done to change the attitudes of youth. She offered to hold a fundraising luncheon for the Antioch Police Department.

Chief Cantando stated he would discuss the fundraiser with Ms. Lopez. He explained that individuals who wore their pants too low were being disrespectful; however it was not a police matter. He reported that traffic concerns were the number one complaint and when they were able to reinstate a traffic unit they would be able to focus on those issues and be a police presence to discourage criminal activity.

In response to a speaker, Chief Cantando stated the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) conduct the decoy program in the community. He noted they had started using

them in some residential neighborhoods as part of a pilot program; however they were not able to monitor them as effectively, as in commercial areas.

A speaker stated that her car had been damaged twice at the park in her neighborhood and she felt the decoy program would deter that from happening.

Chief Cantando explained the VIPs were moving the cars around the community during the day.

5. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Lavonna Martin, Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services, Homeless Program.

Lavonna Martin thanked the Police Crime Prevention for inviting her to make a presentation this evening and stated the County was committed to being in partnership with local jurisdictions. She gave a PowerPoint presentation which included the following:

- Notable Findings Point-In-Time Homeless Count 2005-2014
- Migration of encampments to East County
- Adult, Youth and Children Utilizing Homeless Services – 2013
- Other homeless facts – chronically homeless, physical and mental disabilities, alcohol and drug abuse issues
- Prevention – keeping people in their homes
- Permanent housing – rapid re-housing, permanent housing support services
- Contra Costa County Continuum of Care Demographics – Trends of Time – HMIS Data Analysis FY 2008-2013
- Interventions
- Solutions to end homelessness
- Contra Costa County homeless service providers
- Ten year plan priorities
- Progress toward ending homelessness – key findings from the continuum-wide outcomes report July 2012-June 2013
- County homeless program support for local efforts
- Contact information
- Protocols for homeless encampments

In response to a speaker, Ms. Martin stated she had been informed other jurisdictions had sent their homeless to Antioch; however she did not have any specific information regarding the issue. She encouraged anyone witnessing the behavior, to report it to local law enforcement.

Coordinator Ho stated he would convert the presentation into handout format and email it out to the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains.

Chairperson Cook announced the City's contact person to report homeless encampments was Lt. Aguinaga.

Ms. Martin stated they would continue to engage the homeless who had expressed no interest in moving into a shelter and they were working to determine if Contra Costa would be able to provide a shelter that would accommodate pets.

Ms. Martin stated that panhandlers are addressed through local law enforcement.

6. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Taylor announced the Citywide Cleanup would be held from 8:30 – 11:00 A.M. on April 26, 2014 and encouraged anyone wishing to participate to signup online.

Coordinator Ho announced he emailed registration forms for the Citywide Cleanup to Block Captains.

Commissioner Davis announced the VIPS provided vacation house checks and forms were available on the City's website.

Coordinator Ho provided the phone number for vacation house checks.

Commissioner Gadams reported on his attendance at a Neighborhood Watch meeting held at a Board and Care home. He stated the group had requested information on how to prevent dog attacks when they were out on walks.

Chief Cantando explained that recent dog attacks in Antioch had been sensationalized in the media however, if residents encountered an aggressive dog they could protect themselves with pepper spray or avoid the area.

A speaker stated there was an ultrasonic device "dog chaser" available that helped her put a stop to aggressive behavior.

Chief Cantando added that there were also citizen model tasers.

Commissioner Cook reported when he had used pepper spray with aggressive dogs it was ineffective, however when he discharged his stun gun, the dogs retreated. .

In response to Commissioner Gadams, Chief Cantando explained that the biggest issue with registered sex-offenders was those that moved too close to schools. He stated that they do compliance checks when staffing allowed; however they rely on the public to be aware of registrants living in their area, so they could be guarded. He noted anyone suspecting that registrants are living too close to schools, should report it to the police department.

Commissioner Gadams encouraged Neighborhood Watch groups to bring more people to the Crime Prevention Commission meetings.

Commissioner Williams stated residents had expressed concern regarding the lack of response from the Antioch Police when they questioned them about police activity in their neighborhoods.

Chief Cantando stated residents can call dispatch and speak to a supervisor regarding calls for service.

Commissioner Augusta reminded people that Police Officers had mandated rules to follow which could cause crews to be tied up and overload the system.

Chairperson Cook reported on his attendance at the Suburban Poverty Task Force meeting. He stated his goals were to maintain the quality of life for residents who resided near soup kitchens and assist Veteran's whose benefits were lagging. He announced Chief Cantando had hired seven (7) officers for a total of eighty-nine (89). He reported he had met with City Manager Duran and Chief Cantando regarding Deer Valley Plaza and there would be a meeting with the business owners and property owner to get additional security for the area. He discussed the citizen's group proposal for the landlord tax ballot measure.

Staff

Coordinator Ho reported he was working with Commissioner Davis to initiate discussions with the property manager for the Savemart shopping center and residents of the Somerset Apartments regarding safety concerns in the area.

Chairperson Cook reported they had received similar complaints regarding the shopping centers for Safeway on Deer Valley, Raleys on Lone Tree Way and Save Mart on East 18th Street.

Chief Cantando reported Deer Valley Plaza issues were cyclical and he had met with the City Manager Duran regarding similar events taking place at other shopping centers in the City. He stated the Antioch Police Department had been addressing issues at Deer Valley Plaza and as staffing increased and recently hired officers completed field training, those issues would diminish. He stated current issues were a result of economic conditions and decisions made decades ago and there were future funding measures that would help alleviate the problems. He reported that he had been transparent with what officers were doing and they had been able to accomplish a lot with limited resources. He thanked Chairperson Cook for attending Coffee With the Cops for the Spanish speaking population and noted there would be another one held in July. Additionally, a Coffee With the Cops, without an interpreter, would be held in April, in the Police Department Community room. He announced as public outreach, he had started attending luncheons with residents at different restaurants within the community.

He announced the City Council meeting on April 25, 2014 agenda included the budget and a discussion on the animal services ordinance.

A speaker stated she had a friend who went through the hiring process for the Antioch Police Department and had not heard back regarding the status of his application.

Chief Cantando discussed the hiring process and stated an individual could contact the Human Resources Department to find out where they are in the hiring process.

Barbara thanked Chief Cantando and the Neighborhood Watch groups. She stated she felt the owners of shopping centers should take responsibility for security and maintenance of their properties.

A speaker cautioned residents that homes adjacent to trails had been burglarized by entering through the second floor windows.

Chief Cantando responded there were several burglaries in the City and part of the problem was with the State releasing property criminals earlier. He noted there was a case involving a group of burglars out of Elk Grove who were accessing homes from second story windows and they had been apprehended. He stated the per capita staffing from the east coast to the west coast was different due to the compensation officers received in the western states.

Chairperson Cook discussed the importance of having regular Neighborhood Watch meetings and the Commission would be happy to facilitate those meetings.

In response to a resident, Commissioner Cook reported the City had changed the streets lights for energy efficiency and encouraged residents to keep their outside lights on. He announced the following meeting and event schedule:

7. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. April 21, 2014 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting**
- b. April 5, 2014 – Next Neighborhood Clean-up; Meet at Antioch Middle School, 1500 D Street**

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 21, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.