

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California  
April 20, 2015

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Gadams called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on April 20, 2015 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Taylor, Parham, Davis and Chairperson Gadams  
Absent: Commissioner Williams

Staff: Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga  
Coordinator, Hans Ho  
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 16, 2015)**

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

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

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sam Blittman, questioned if there was a traffic unit and if Code Enforcement was active on the City's website. He reported the Asian market at the corner of Wildflower and Larkspur was not maintaining their parking lot.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained the City had not had a traffic unit for several years; however, it was a priority once staffing levels increased. She noted the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) would put out radar trailers, when requested. She further noted currently there were eighty-nine (89) sworn officers with forty-one (41) working patrol and they were actively recruiting to increase staffing. She clarified Code Enforcement was separate from the Police Department and very responsive, based on priority, when notified of concerns. She suggested Mr. Blittman notify Code Enforcement of his concerns regarding the Asian market.

Coordinator Ho stated he would provide Mr. Blittman with contact information for Code Enforcement.

Chairperson Gadams urged Mr. Blittman to follow up on his concerns and acknowledged the traffic was a major concern in the community.

Lieutenant Aguinaga clarified that traffic unit would not be staffed until the Antioch Police Department was fully staffed.

Sandra Kelly, Antioch resident, reported that since the homeless camp on the waterfront was dismantled there were issues particularly at City Park with transients sleeping in the area. She requested an update with regards to Measure O revenues.

Coordinator Ho responded that Measure O revenue went into the General Fund with part to be used for Code Enforcement and Measure C funding was dedicated to Police and Code Enforcement.

Lieutenant Aguinaga added that the City was in the process of hiring someone to oversee the Business License Tax. Additionally, she noted Code Enforcement was rehiring full time Antioch Code Enforcement Officers and eliminating the contract positions. She noted the process would include the hiring of one additional Code Enforcement Officer.

## **6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS**

### **a. Group Discussion led by Chair Gadams – Interior and Exterior Lighting**

Chairperson Gadams gave presentation on interior and exterior Lighting which included the following information:

- Lighting was effective in deterring crime by allowing for easy observation of others and eliminating hiding spots
- Street Lighting in large cities made it easier for criminal activity to occur and in small cities displaced criminal activity
- Lighting should provide visibility and allow surveillance without creating excessive glare or shadows
- Exterior lighting in front yards should be on timers to establish a routine and should allow for 100 feet of visibility
- Leaving exterior lights on all day indicated no one is home
- Focused lighting was more effective
- Interior lighting indicated someone was inside the residence
- Radios and televisions should be on timers when on vacation
- Use of interior light timers established a pattern of occupancy
- Use lighting to illuminate the pathway to front door
- Use infrared motion sensors on the rear of single family homes
- Dusk to dawn sensors were effected in the front of the homes

A resident reported he had a motion sensor mounted on the side of his home at his gate to illuminate area.

A resident reported he worked in conjunction with his neighbors to provide lighting throughout his neighborhood. .

Chairperson Gadams suggested the importance of lighting be discussed at Neighborhood Watch meetings.

A resident reported she parked a vehicle in her neighbor's driveway when they were out of town on vacation.

Commissioner Taylor suggested residents illuminate side yards. She reported that recently they had caught someone on a security camera checking car doors in her neighborhood who avoided stepping into lighted areas. She suggested residents trim shrubs around the perimeter of their homes.

A resident stated she had installed an LED flood light with a photocell at the rear of her residence.

A resident stated she was unable to install her own lighting and questioned who could assist.

Sparky, representing Lowes, provided examples and reviewed options for interior and exterior lighting as well as timers and light bulbs.

In response to Chairperson Gadams, Sparky stated Lowes had contractors available to install lighting. He suggested those wanting to install lighting improvements themselves, bring a sketch of their homes when purchasing lighting.

A resident noted there were also hardwired in-wall timers.

Chairperson Gadams stated his dusk to dawn porch light and his side and rear yard motion sensor lights were very effective. He thanked Sparky and Lowes for assisting with the presentation and noted there were two Lowes' locations in Antioch.

Sparky commented that if power was not available at the location where lighting was needed, they could install solar power in the area.

## **7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)**

### **a. Commission**

Commissioner Taylor thanked all the volunteers who participated in the Keep Antioch Beautiful event.

Coordinator Ho stated he would provide an update via email with regards to the success of the event.

A resident reported that people who had participated in the cleanup event felt security was lacking at the Prewett Park site.

Commissioner Taylor suggested the speaker discuss this matter with her after the meeting. She encouraged residents hosting garage sales to remove their signs afterward. She commented that she had reviewed crime reports for her area and it appeared criminal activity was decreasing. She attributed this to the increase of exterior lighting in the area. She suggested residents wanting the City hire additional Code Enforcement, notify the City Council of their request.

Commissioner Parham urged residents to trim trees eight (8) feet up from the ground and plant bushes and shrubs with thorns adjacent to side yard fencing. She urged residents to report broken pipes and sprinklers to the [MWalker@ci.antioch.ca.us](mailto:MWalker@ci.antioch.ca.us). She encouraged residents to download and utilize the GOREquest app to report non-emergency items.

Commissioner Taylor announced a Lose a Lawn, Get a Garden workshop would be held from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. on April 25, 2015 at Prewett Park Community Center.

In response to Commission Davis, Lieutenant Aguinaga stated it was not against the law to be homeless; however, camping on someone's property without permission or panhandling was against the law.

Commissioner Davis questioned if outreach had been conducted for those who were moved out of the encampment on the waterfront.

Lieutenant Aguinaga responded that Bay Area Rescue Mission provided flyers and shelter information a week prior to the encampment being dismantled. She noted outreach had followed up every day until the camp was removed and nine (9) people were placed in a shelter. She further noted homelessness was cyclical and one individual who had been arrested repeatedly for public drunkenness was now in charge of Bay Area Rescue Mission East County Outreach. She stated 211.org provided all the information for homeless services.

Commissioner Davis reported several years ago he met someone who had a home; however, his choice was to live on the streets. He stated that due to his absence at the last meeting, the subcommittee for garbage and recycling bins had been continued. He requested that the item be placed on the next agenda.

In response to a resident, Lieutenant Aguinaga stated many people gave the homeless permission to sleep on their properties and some commercial areas allowed them sleep on their lots.

## **b. Staff**

Coordinator Ho announced applications for National Night Out were available in the community room this evening. He noted they were also sent out via email. He stated applications should be returned to Lieutenant Aguinaga and cautioned Block Captains not to fax or email the applications. He announced applications for the Citizens' Academy were also available in the community room this evening. He stated he would email those applications with a flyer to the Block Captains.

Chairperson Gadams announced Commissioner Cook was not in attendance this evening as he was dealing with medical issues from his accident.

Coordinator Ho added that Bill and Lori Cook were both undergoing medical treatment and making good progress. He stated Commissioner Cook was no longer on Commission. He announced interviews had been conducted for Commission vacancies and Mayor Harper would announce appointments at the next Council meeting.

Chairperson Gadams stated he would have a card for Bill Book for everybody to sign at the next Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

Lieutenant Aguinaga announced Bill Cook and Dick Augusta would be recognized at the Police Department award ceremony at 3:00 P.M. on May 14, 2014.

Commissioner Parham announced Commissioner Augusta was very involved with the Vagabond Players theatre group.

Chairperson Gadams encouraged residents to bring their neighbors and any relevant information to share at future Crime Preventions Commission meetings.

Steve Huddleston cautioned that recently there had been many Honda vehicle thefts in Antioch.

Chairperson Gadams announced the following events.

### **8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS**

- a. May 2, 2015 – Neighborhood Cleanup – San Joaquin, Tregallas Road Neighborhoods
- b. May 18, 2015 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting

Kiran Singh, Antioch resident, questioned what the city code was pertaining to leash laws.

Commissioner Parham responded that all City codes were available on the city's website [ciantioch.ca.us](http://ciantioch.ca.us).

Marie Kesser, Antioch resident, questioned how to deal with an aggressive unleashed dog at the park.

Lieutenant Aguinaga suggested reporting the incident to Antioch Animal Services during their business hours and afterhours the Antioch Police Department non-emergency line.

Kiran Singh reported she had had an encounter with a rattlesnake on her property and the Antioch Police Department and Animal Services would not respond. She stated she felt an officer should have responded.

Alexis Fisher, Antioch resident, reported she participated in the Contra Costa Water District rebate program for installing drought tolerant landscaping. She noted the process was very easy and encouraged residents to look into the program.

Stephanie Sterling, reported the Nextdoor app was very useful way to communicate with neighbors.

Chairperson Gadams thanked Sparky for attending the meeting this evening.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 16, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.