

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
April 21, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on April 21, 2014 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: City Manager, Steve Duran
Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 17, 2014)

On motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Gadams the Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the minutes of March 17, 2014 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Cook invited new participants to introduce themselves and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Mary Lopez, Antioch resident, expressed concern for street vendors who illegally sell food in direct competition with retail establishments in Antioch. Additionally, she felt children were behaving disrespectful towards residents.

Harry Thurston, Antioch resident, expressed concern regarding children jaywalking near Deer Valley High School and people running red lights on Lone Tree Way. He offered to participate in a committee to discuss solutions to these problems.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported the Antioch Police Department had started a new overtime detail from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. at Deer Valley Plaza specifically addressing graffiti, loitering and jaywalking.

Chairperson Cook urged residents to stay off their cell phones and be cautious crossing intersections when lights turn green.

Teri Lynn Lowery, Mobilization Unit Alcohol Prevention Program Coordinator, provided the Commission and Neighborhood Watch groups with recruitment flyers, watch logs, and reporting forms.

Coordinator Ho stated at the end of the presentation from Ms. Lowery, he emailed all three documents out to Block Captains and he would resend them out this week.

Kiran Singh, cautioned residents that there was a scam regarding people impersonating the Internal Revenue Service, threatening arrest unless they are paid \$500.00. She expressed concern regarding children who were using BB guns targeting people.

Chairperson Cook responded the Internal Revenue Service contacted people by mail, not phone. He urged victims of BB gun incidents to report them to the Antioch Police Department.

Lieutenant Aguinaga added that residents would not be jailed over a \$500.00 payment due, especially a threat via telephone.

Lori Cook, Antioch resident, invited the community to join her facebook page, “Cleaning Up Antioch One Home at a Time” and stated copies of information regarding their efforts to clean up residential and commercial properties were available in the community room this evening. She introduced Beverly Knight and announced she also had a facebook page, “Empower Antioch Today”. On behalf of the Antioch Riverview Garden Club she announced they would be hosting a plant sale at from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. on May 10, 2015 at Prewett Water Park and invitations were available in the Community Room this evening.

Don Freitas announced Lori Cook and Beverly Knight were recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for having the most positive impacts, in the community, in 2013. He 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 gave a brief history of their efforts and announced they would be moving forward on a residential landlord citizens’ initiative, to have landlords pay their fair share of a business license fee. He stated they were seeking signatures of registered voters to place the initiative on the ballot for November 2014. He noted revenue generated from the fee, would specifically be targeted to address crime and code enforcement. He further noted he would be available after the meeting for anyone wishing to receive additional information.

Coordinator Ho read written comment from Connie Haro, Antioch resident, who stated there was a homeless encampment behind her house and Chevron and the Antioch Police Department had addressed the situation.

Pam Gabrulli, Antioch resident, reported a neighbor informed their Neighborhood Watch group that recently he had received landline calls and hang-ups. She stated he had answered a call last week and overheard a conversation between gang members who stated they would be breaking into his house. She noted they were unable to trace the call but the Antioch Police Department had been notified.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Steve Duran, Antioch City Manager

City Manager Duran stated he was extremely impressed with the City staff and community volunteers. He reported that the City had gathered information through Community Cafes and had been working to improve communication with the community and develop a strategic plan. He noted a draft of that plan would be going out to the City Council and a workshop would be scheduled for City Council meeting in May or June. He informed the community that weekly and monthly reports were available on the City's website. He reported they were budgeting approximately \$4.4m of new revenue from Measure C, with approximately \$170k going toward Code Enforcement and the remainder going into the Police Department budget. He announced Mayor Harper and Councilmember Wilson were appointed to a subcommittee to focus on the Sycamore area and they would be working with Supervisor Glover and Assemblyman Frasier to involve stakeholders in a community meeting to improve public safety, in the area. He discussed the importance of empowering the community so leaders emerge from the neighborhoods, to help alleviate problems in the area.

A speaker voiced his appreciation to Mr. Duran for providing the community with the weekly and monthly updates.

Karl Dietzel, Antioch resident, requested the agenda for the workshop include feedback from previous community meetings. He stated he lived in the Sycamore area and offered to serve on a committee to address public safety concerns in the area.

City Manager Duran stated feedback from the community cafe would be in the Strategic Plan. He announced that there would be an internal meeting to determine how to best serve the Sycamore area, which would be followed by a meeting with the stakeholders.

Beverly Knight, Antioch resident, offered to give City Manager Duran her contact information so that she could discuss ideas to clean up blight in the Sycamore area.

Lori Cook stated she had sent City Manager Duran a message that she and Beverly Knight would like to meet with him to discuss ideas.

Commissioner Augusta, Antioch resident, reported in the past the Antioch Police Department had a dedicated team for the Sycamore area, which was very effective.

City Manager Duran discussed the challenges of hiring Police Officers and stated they were making progress. He stated it was Chief Cantando discretion to develop a strategy for dedicated enforcement teams.

Josh encouraged the City to support the Antioch Police and their efforts to conduct outreach with youth to deter violence. He offered to volunteer his time to assist in educating the youth.

City Manager Duran reported Chief Cantando would be giving his quarterly report to the City Council at the April 22, 2014 City Council meeting.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained that all the Antioch Police Department special teams were disbanded in 2011.

Josh announced he had a facebook page, Act Now Antioch and he would be discussing with Chief Cantando effective ways to communicate that illegal behavior would not be tolerated

Mike Greenwaldt, suggested residents become active in facebook and Neighborhood Watch groups. He suggested dealing directly with the problems occurring in their neighborhoods and be as respectful as possible when confronting issues. He stated he volunteered daily at his local school.

A speaker stated she had confronted neighbors directly and at times it was not well received.

A speaker stated every morning walked his neighborhood and picked up garbage. He stated he had begun asking people in the park to pick up their garbage and most complied.

In response to Lori Cook, City Manager Duran explained that weekly and monthly reports are available on the City's website.

A speaker announced he was a former military police officer who had just moved to Antioch and he had experienced a lot of crime in his neighborhood. He questioned what he could do to assist the City.

Coordinator Ho stated one of the most effective ways to help neighborhood was by organizing a Neighborhood Watch group. He provided the speaker with contact information to set up a meeting to organize a group.

A speaker questioned if the City would allow residents to install speed bumps in their neighborhoods, at their own expense.

City Manager Duran suggested the speaker contact him and the City Engineer to discuss the issue.

A speaker discussed the California Apartment Association (CAA) opposition to the landlord business license tax. She questioned what neighboring cities did with respect to landlords and if the City was collecting any fees now.

City Manager Duran stated the landlord fees had never been collected for single family dwellings and the City Attorney was not supportive of doing so absent an amended ordinance. He reported they had been meeting with the Friday Morning Breakfast Club and California Apartment Association representatives in an attempt to come to an agreement on a ballot measure that the City Council could support. He stated if a consensus was not reached, the citizens' initiative would move forward, provided they had signatures to support it. He commented that the rental inspection fee was insufficient at covering the costs of inspections. He noted Concord and Pleasant Hill have a per rental unit charge that was considerably lower than what was being proposed.

In response to a speaker, City Manager Duran reported there was a meeting scheduled for next week to meet with the rescue organizations to determine the feasibility of a Trap, Neuter and Return program (TNR). He stated now that the ban for feeding feral cats on public property was approved, they would have more leverage to develop a program that would be effective.

Nancy Kelley reported she was a landlord in Antioch and she supported a tax on residential rental properties. She announced she had already signed the petition and offered to collect signatures for the ballot measure.

Chairperson Cook thanked City Manager Duran for the presentation.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commissioners

Commissioner Hayes reported that his mother had received a check from Publishers Clearing House that the bank determined was fraudulent. He cautioned people to not give out personnel information on the internet and noted Publisher's Clearing House had informed him that they always make personal contact with sweepstakes winners.

Commissioner Taylor stated she had met a disabled lady in her neighborhood that was in a wheelchair and she did a walkthrough of her home to determine if she could improve her safety measures. She stated she had assisted in prerecording a message for dispatch, should she need police services and was too frightened to communicate.

She stated her husband was also going to lower the resident's peephole. She cautioned people leaving town to not post that information on facebook. In an effort to discourage illegal dumping, she suggested Neighborhood Watch groups inform residents that they receive two extra garbage pickups, per year, at no cost.

Commissioner Davis reported that he and Coordinator Ho had met with the property managers and owners of the Contra Loma Plaza and they had been impressed with the ideas they had offered to increase security for the area. He commended the company for responding positively and noted they would be making a presentation of their program to the Commission in the future. He requested the issue of street vendors be agendaized for a future meeting and cautioned residents of their unsanitary practices.

Lieutenant Aguinaga announced the application deadline for the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) was extended through today, however applications would be accepted tomorrow and they were available on the City's website.

Commissioner Davis spoke to the value of the VIPS program. He suggested the City consider enacting an ordinance that makes it illegal to park a wrecked vehicle on City streets. He thanked the volunteers for being involved and making a positive impact on the quality of life of residents in Antioch.

Commissioner Gadams thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening and commended the residents for taking action and working together to resolve the issues. He suggested anyone with issues to bring them forward to discuss resolutions and encouraged other Neighborhood Watch participants to share ideas that were successful in improving their neighborhoods.

Commissioner Williams reported she had recently called Antioch dispatch to report suspicious behavior and the dispatcher was rude. She stated she had obtained the dispatcher's name and spoke with a supervisor who investigated and stated it would never happen again. She encouraged anyone that received similar service to not be discouraged about calling into the Antioch Police Department.

Commissioner Augusta reported when people were calling into the abandoned vehicles and code enforcement lines, the recorded message asked for names addresses and phone numbers of the caller.

Lieutenant Aguinaga stated that Code Enforcement was at City Hall and not the Antioch Police Department. She stated callers reporting abandoned vehicles could provide just the address of where the vehicle was abandoned.

Commissioner Augusta reported the homeless encampment behind the homes on East Madill Street was located near the Chevron pipeline which was a concern because it had aviation fuel running through it. He commended Chevron for cleaning up the area.

Chairperson Cook thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reported there were approximately four-hundred and fifty (450) Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, which had made an impact on crime occurring in Antioch. He announced there would be a Neighborhood Watch meeting in the Sycamore area. He acknowledged Neighborhood Watch groups for taking ownership of their neighborhoods. He reminded members to observe and report suspicious activity and not put themselves in danger. He suggested residents be a presence and pick up garbage in their neighborhoods. He reported a resident at a Neighborhood Watch meeting voiced dissatisfaction with the condition of the park in her area and he had encouraged her to become involved which resulted in improving the condition of the park and encouraging others to help. He suggested residents wanting speed bumps, voice those concerns to the City Council. He urged people to stay off their cell phones, pay attention to what was occurring and report suspicious circumstances. He discussed a recent kidnapping that was solved due to a security guard being observant and recording information that lead to the suspect. He reported Lori Cook's facebook group was working with merchants at the Deer Valley Plaza shopping center to get the owner of the project to add security measures. He noted they were also working with the School Board and school to try to address student issues. He reported Council had discussed the possibility of cutting the hours at the library, closing the senior center, trails and bike paths and selling or outsourcing the Lone Tree Golf Course and Water Park, to address the City's budget deficit. He noted the landlord tax, if approved, would help address the budget shortfall. He encouraged residents to report homeless encampment location to the Antioch Police Department.

b. Staff - NNO Grant Applications

Coordinator Ho announced National Night Out would be held on August 5, 2014 and applications were available in the community room this evening or on the City's website. He noted the application deadline would be June 27, 2014 and groups registering after that date, would not be eligible for the grant or city visitations. He stated he would also be emailing applications to Block Captains.

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. May 19th, 2014 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting**
- b. May 3rd, 2014 – Next Neighborhood Clean-up – CANCELLED due to the city-wide clean-up on April 26th**

Chairperson Cook announced the meeting and event schedules.

Wayne Harrison announced the locations for the Keep Antioch Beautiful event were as follows:

- Mission Elementary School
- Black Diamond Middle School
- Hillcrest Park

- City Hall
- Red Caboose
- John Muir Elementary School
- Turner Elementary School
- Kimball Elementary School

Chairperson Cook announced a lunch would be held at Contra Loma afterward for anyone signing up and participating in the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Continued

Lori Cook thanked Josh for actively seeking solutions to his concerns.

In response to a speaker, Don Freitas explained that it was not necessary to obtain a permit to seek signatures for the ballot measure.

In response to a speaker, Coordinator Ho explained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training was available in Brentwood and Pittsburg.

In response to a speaker, Chairperson Cook stated the Keep Antioch Beautiful event was targeting specific locations and city crews are responsible for cul-de-sac island maintenance. He encouraged neighbors to become involved in the maintenance of that area.

Janet Farr reported she was a member of the Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) and they were seeking additional volunteers.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Davis the Crime Prevention Commission 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 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 19, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.