

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
June 15, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gadams called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., on June 15, 2015 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Thurston led the Commission and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Taylor, Williams, Parham, Thurston, Solorio, Davis and Chairperson Gadams

Staff: Chief of Police, Allan Cantando
Police Sergeant, Desmond Bittner
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

Chairperson Gadams reported Coordinator Ho and Lieutenant Aguinaga were on vacation and Sergeant Bittner was the liaison this evening. He thanked Chief Cantando for attending the meeting.

Chief Cantando recognized Director of Park and Recreation Kaiser in attendance this evening.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 18, 2015)

On motion by Commissioner Parham, seconded by Commissioner Thurston the Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the minutes of May 18, 2015 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Taylor, Williams, Parham, Thurston, Solorio, Davis and Chairperson Gadams

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Director of Park and Recreation Kaiser introduced herself and stated she was excited to bring more recreational opportunities for the citizens of Antioch. On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Director of Park and Recreation Kaiser stated there was a heightened awareness for park safety programs and they hoped to partner with the

Police Crime Prevention to hold a joint meeting and/or visits to the community parks. She spoke to the benefits of recreational activities and provided her business card for anyone wishing to contact her.

In response to Chairperson Gadams, Director of Park and Recreation Kaiser stated graffiti, vandalism, items in need of repair and excess garbage could be reported to the City via the go request app.

In response to the Commission and audience, Director of Park and Recreation Kaiser explained parks were used on a first come, first serve basis. She noted areas within the community park could be reserved and there was also an application process for special events. She requested residents report any graffiti on sound walls adjacent to City parks. She clarified parks watered with recycled water should be green and if not the City should be notified. She noted due to water restrictions, City parks on potable water would be brown this summer.

Fred Rouse, Antioch resident, read a written statement regarding crime in Antioch and recommended that the City Council move to implement stronger ordinances.

Commissioner Davis requested Mr. Rouse express his concerns to the City Council.

Laura Padraza, Center for Human Development Minor and Youth Alcohol Prevention Program, provided an update of their operations in partnership with the Antioch Police Department and thanked them for their enforcement efforts.

Steve Brodsky, Antioch resident, expressed interest in becoming involved in the community. He suggested residents have car keys next to them while sleeping so in the event of an emergency, a car alarm could be sounded.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Mosquito and Vector Control – Andrew Pierce

Andrew Pierce representing Mosquito and Vector Control gave a presentation which included the following:

- Mosquito and Vector Control was an independent or special district funded by property and benefit assessment taxes governed by a Board of Trustees
- Free services pertained to mosquitoes, rats, mice, ground nesting yellow jackets, skunks, ticks and the mosquito fish program
- There were 23 species of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County, 55 in the State, 3000+ World Wide
- Mosquitoes began their life cycle in standing/stagnant water and clusters the size of a grain of rice could contain up to 400 eggs
- It only took 2-3 tablespoons of standing water to produce several hundred mosquitoes and the warmer the water the faster the lifecycle

- Two species of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County could transfer West Nile virus to birds, horses and people
- One neglected pool could produce one million mosquitoes
- Residents should dump or drain stagnant water
- Residents should use insect repellent preferably one that contained deet/picaridin or natural repellants such as oil of lemon/eucalyptus
- Outdoors should be avoided at dawn and dusk
- Mosquito problems should be reported to the Mosquito and Vector Control District
- The Integrated Vector Management program consisted of clearing clogged creeks or channels., using mosquito fish, public education and the use of chemical insecticide
- ContraCostaMosquito.com provided information on fogging activities
- Rats and mice could transmit bacteria through their droppings
- Residents should close off structural areas, sealing up holes and gaps
- Rats and mice feed on bird seed and pet food
- Shrubs and trees should be trimmed from the roofline
- Weather-stripping on garage doors should be checked and replaced, if needed
- The District would provide a free inspection for rats and mice with a detailed report on their findings
- There were three species of ticks in Contra Costa County, one of which transmitted Lyme disease
- Residents should remain on dedicated trails and out of shrubbery/tall grass
- Tick checks should be performed after camping or hiking
- Ticks should be removed with tweezers by grabbing them as close to the skin as possible and pulling straight out
- Monitoring for ticks involved flagging dragging a felt cloth along open space areas
- Skunks have a high propensity to transfer rabies and residents should eliminate food sources and close off structural areas, sealing up holes and gaps
- Free inspections were available for skunks and if a skunk burrowed on the property a live catch trap was left and the skunk was removed at no charge
- There were four species of Yellow jackets in the Contra Costa County, two nested high and two at or underground
- There could be up to 15,000 yellow jackets in one nest and if disturbed come out to defend the queen
- Yellow jackets could sting and bite repeatedly
- The District would treat ground nesting yellow jackets at no charge

In response to the audience, Mr. Pierce clarified they dealt specifically with mosquitoes, rats, mice, skunks and ground nesting yellow jackets. He noted unless it was a Code Enforcement Issue, their role was limited and working with neighbors was the most successful way to alleviate a problem on adjacent properties. He offered to give a presentation on mice and rats to neighborhood groups. He stated Mosquito and Vector Control should be notified if there was an issue with skunks or neglected pools on a vacant property. He noted if a pool was chlorinated, eggs would not hatch and the best

solution for ponds was mosquito fish. He recommended bird bath water be replaced every three to five days or treated with mosquito dunks. He commented mosquitoes with the ability to transfer West Nile virus had a flight range of up to 5 miles.

b. Sub-committee – Garbage and Recycling Bins

Commissioner Davis reported the Garbage and Recycling Bins subcommittee was formed; however, they had not met as they were waiting for Republic Waste to respond. He stated they were attempting to gather information as to how other communities were addressing people rummaging through cans. He announced the subcommittee would be meeting in the near future.

In response to a speaker, Chief Cantando clarified that technically once the garbage was placed on the curb, it belongs to the garbage company and at times the Antioch Police Department would look through them for evidence of a crime.

Commissioner Davis suggested residents shred important or personal documents and urged them to remove cans from the curb as soon as possible.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Taylor stated forms would be available for residents wishing to request presentation topics for the Police Crime Prevention Commission meetings and pamphlets were also available regarding charity fraud. She reminded residents to be cautious when donating over the phone and suggested if they wished to donate to make contact themselves.

Commissioner Solario reported he had contacted Antioch Unified School District Associate Superintendent Tim Forester regarding partnering with Neighborhood Watch. He noted he had discussed this issue with the Principal at Jack London Elementary School who had offered suggestions for the program. He stated he would be looking into developing this program when school resumed.

Commissioner Parham announced the guest speaker for the July Police Crime Prevention meeting was Lucia Ray-Guillen from Community Violence Solutions who would give a presentation on Human Trafficking. She warned residents of scams and urged them not to give out personal information or open emails of unknown origin. She reported on her attendance at the Open House for downtown merchants and encouraged residents to patronize them. She announced she was facilitating a Neighborhood Watch group for downtown businesses.

Commissioner Davis announced vacation house checks were available through the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS). He suggested residents not share information

regarding their vacations on social media until they returned home. He urged residents to avoid giving out their date of birth online.

Commissioner Williams suggested residents have neighbors retrieve mail and newspapers or stop service when they were out of town.

Commissioner Thurston reported on his attendance at Coffee with Cops and recommended residents attend the event. He also noted he had also attended the Commissioner training meeting which was opened to the public. He stated in addition to the Antioch Unified School District, they were looking at outreach to many other areas.

Staff

Chief Cantando clarified the Antioch Police Department does not solicit for the Antioch Police Activities League. He noted CALPAL solicited by phone however; their money was shared among all PAL programs. He suggested prior to donating to a charity, residents request their 501c3 and research online to determine if they were legitimate. He recognized people attending the meeting for the first time, thanked them for attending and encouraged them to “like” the Antioch Police Department facebook page. He reported Pizza with the Police would be held in July in the Antioch Police Department community room and he encouraged residents to attend. He announced the traffic program had been reinstated and Officer Solari had been issuing 20-25 tickets per day. He noted they were holding a class for police officer applicants and information was available on the Antioch Police Department facebook page. He stated there were currently 86 Antioch Police Department Officers and 102 were authorized. He noted five officers were in the academy, one would be hired at the end of the month and two more would be coming on in July. He stated they were attempting to hire as fast as possible. He reported part one crime for the first quarter of 2015 was down 13.3% and at the next meeting he would provide statistics for the first 6 months.

In response to Chairperson Gadams, Chief Cantando reported property crime was down as well. He noted weekly proactive details had occurred and arrests were up 20%. He credited Neighborhood Watch for much of their success. He reported on facilitating a Coffee with Cops event for the Hispanic community and discussed the importance of communication.

In response to Commissioner Davis, Chief Cantando explained traffic citations were not a revenue generator. He noted money from traffic citations went back to the courts, signal control and various County programs. He further noted if a grave yard or swing shift officer wrote the citation, the officer was paid four hours of overtime to attend court. He stated the goal of the traffic unit was to reduce traffic accidents, show a presence in the City and be available to respond to accidents. He clarified that current staffing levels included injured reserve. He stated the goal was to increase the traffic unit and implement a special enforcement team, to change perception in the City. He explained that he reported accurate crime statistics and when crime was up; it encouraged

residents to become involved and allowed for the City to apply for grants. Furthermore, when crime was down, residents were encouraged. He commented with social media reporting every incident it increased awareness; however at times the information given was inaccurate.

Chairperson Gadams encouraged residents to report suspicious activity

Chief Cantando stated if residents encountered a rude dispatcher, it needed to be reported so he could address the situation. He noted after July or August, Antioch Police Department officers would have body cameras and their interactions would be recorded and complaints would be addressed.

Commissioner Davis encouraged residents to take the information they received tonight back to their Neighborhood Watch groups. He thanked Chief Cantando for his professionalism.

In response to Commissioner Parham, Chief Cantando encouraged residents to let solicitors know they are home and if they choose to engage them, they should notify the Antioch Police Department if they do not have a permit.

Commissioner Thurston added that the Antioch Police Department kept track of the calls and if there were several complaints regarding solicitors in a particular neighborhood, then it could be dealt with, as time allowed.

A resident suggested children soliciting for athletic clubs or schools take their identification badges with them.

Steve Brodsky stated at times some groups solicited with different stories. He suggested installing a fake camera and telling them they were being recorded.

In response to a resident, Chief Cantando clarified when he previously spoke to a grant; he was referring to the Federal COPS grant. He noted with regards to other grants, a lot of the money remained in other areas of the County. He announced he had contacted the CHP who would be assisting for one day, with traffic enforcement.

A resident expressed concern regarding patrons gathering outside of the methadone clinic on Sunset.

Chief Cantando responded Captain Orman was dealing with property owner on that issue.

Chairperson Gadams thanked Mr. Rouse for voicing his concerns this evening. He stated there were many alarm companies trying to solicit business and he cautioned residents about signing long term contracts. On behalf of Coordinator Ho, he reported there were thirty-two applications for National Night Out and awards would be announced after June 26, 2015.

Commissioner Parham suggested National Night Out applications be brought in to Lieutenant Aguinaga or Sergeant Bittner and noted the applications had been sent via email by Coordinator Ho. .

Chairperson Gadams announced the following meetings, presentations and events.

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. July 4, 2015 - Neighborhood Cleanup – Cancelled
- b. July 20, 2015 - Crime Prevention Commission meeting

A resident reported her husband, Fred Rouse, was the Vice Chairperson of the Administrative Board of Appeals.

Chairperson Gadams thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Parham the Crime Prevention Commission unanimously adjourned the meeting. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Taylor, Williams, Parham, Thurston, Solorio, Davis and Chairperson Gadams

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 20, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.