

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California  
June 16, 2014

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on June 16, 2014 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioner Williams

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

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 19, 2014)**

On motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of May 19, 2014 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

Absent: Commissioner Williams

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rechelle Villa, Antioch resident, expressed concern regarding a transient living near the Safeway shopping center.

Lieutenant Aguinaga stated the property owner had to be willing to sign a citizen's arrest or tell the transient leave the property. She noted she could report the location to homeless outreach.

Ms. Villa reported that while out walking her dog, she had witnessed suspicious circumstances at a new construction job site and she was unsure how to report it.

Commissioner Cook suggested Ms. Villa report the incident to the Police Department non-emergency number: 778-2441.

Laquetta Franz, Antioch resident, reported a house in her neighborhood had a history of illegal activity; however it had been cleaned up and put on the market. She noted on Memorial Day weekend, a group of kids broke into the house and hosted a party. She questioned why the Police had only had the kids leave the property and they had not pursued criminal charges.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained that in order to pursue criminal charges, there had to be a victim willing to sign a citizen's arrest for trespassing.

Chairperson Cook suggested residents take photos of the real estate signs in their neighborhoods, so if they have a concern, they have contact information immediately available.

Edward Sigismondo, Antioch resident, reported there had been a drive by shooting in his neighborhood and expressed concern that only two patrol vehicles responded to the call.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained the incident occurred on the same day as an officer involved shooting and when the Police Department found the victim of the drive by shooting, he was uncooperative. She stated other victims of the crime could request a police report.

A speaker stated she was the victim and was told it would be 4-6 weeks before she would be able to receive any information for her insurance company.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained that the incident was assigned to investigators and 4-6 weeks for a report was good considering the Police Departments limited staffing. She suggested the victim get a copy of the event number, which could be obtained through the kiosk at the Police Department.

The victim stated she feared for her children who played outside and questioned what would be done to protect citizens.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained that crime occurred throughout Antioch and the Police Department was doing their best with the available resources. She added that they were a reactive Police Department until staffing was back up to full duty.

Coordinator Ho announced that the Police Department was actively hiring Police Officers with Measure C funding and City Manager Duran was pursuing other sources of revenue to increase public safety. He noted a Police Commissioner would be available to discuss safety measures at their next Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Sandra Kelly, Antioch resident, reported she had received complaints from residents, regarding calls to dispatch. She expressed concern for a homeless encampment on "C" Street and requested the City address the situation.

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

### **a. Presentation by: Renee Feder, (Phillips, Edison & Company) on preventative measures at Contra Loma Plaza.**

Renee Feder, Property Manager for Contra Loma Plaza, gave a brief background of their company. She gave an overhead presentation of the improvements made to increase safety and prevent illegal activity from occurring in the area. Those improvements included the following:

- Installation of internet based security cameras with motion sensors
- Onsite security guard (varied shifts)
- Landscaping maintenance and improvements
- Removal of canopies on the rear elevation
- Designation of a “police only” parking stall
- Development of a Neighborhood Watch for tenants

Possible future improvements include:

- Events hosted at the Shopping Center
- Implementation of a dog park
- Lighting upgrades
- Facade renovations

Ms. Feder commended the City of Antioch for their cooperation and collaboration in efforts to improve the center.

In response to a question from the audience, Ms. Feder stated they could consider the possibility of access from Longview Road, as a future improvement for the area.

Coordinator Ho stated they were considering a car show and a farmer’s market for events at the center.

Chairperson Cook suggested Ms. Feder meet with Lori Cook and Barbara Cowan to discuss how to address similar issues at the Deer Valley Plaza shopping center.

Commissioner Davis thanked Ms. Feder for the presentation and suggested she make a presentation to the City Council. He commended Phillips, Edison & Company for taking the initiative to improve the property. He suggested those frustrated with the conditions at other shopping centers; let the ownership and management know why they would be shopping elsewhere.

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

### **a. Commission**

Commissioner Hayes suggested Neighborhood Watch groups invite children to participate in meetings.

Commissioner Taylor announced National Night Out would be held on August 5, 2014 and information packets were available on NATW.org.

Commissioner Davis thanked a gentleman he had followed into the meeting for picking up and disposing of trash.

Commissioner Gadams stated effective Neighborhood Watch groups meet regularly and report suspicious circumstances. He commented that upgrading shopping centers attracts the right kind of clientele and sends a message to the criminal element. He encouraged residents to report blight and abandoned vehicles.

Commissioner Augusta reported he had a Neighborhood Watch meeting in a neighborhood that had recently experienced a shooting and he was unaware of the incident prior to his arrival. He apologized for not knowing the crime statistics for the neighborhood. He noted one attendee who was the victim of the shooting was argumentative and disruptive. He suggested prior to Neighborhood Watch presentations, Commissioners receive a list of crime stats for the neighborhood.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported crime statistics were available on crimereports.com.

Coordinator Ho stated a future agenda would include a live demonstration of crime reports.com.

Chairperson Cook reported he was on the homeless task force and urged residents to report any encampments to the Police Department non-emergency number, so that a representative from Contra Costa County homeless outreach could make contact and attempt to get them help. He reported he had recently attended court with a friend and police officers were there for several cases, however all but one case was postponed due to the defendants not showing up. He stated he had a meeting scheduled with Assemblyman Frasier's office to determine if legislation could be introduced that would recover wages for Officer time when defendants do not show up for their court date. He reported a meeting in the Sycamore area to start a Neighborhood Watch group was well-attended. He commented that criminal behavior was occurring throughout Antioch and he urged residents to pay attention and report suspicious activity. He stated he felt it was unacceptable that Commissioner Augusta was disrespected at his Neighborhood Watch meeting.

New Neighborhood Watch participants introduced themselves.

Chairperson Cook thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

**b. Staff**

Coordinator Ho announced they were budgeted for twenty five (25) National Night Out grants and had received thirty-two (32) applications. He noted applications submitted prior to May 22, 2014 would receive grants. He further noted Lieutenant Aguinaga was attempting to get additional funding for later submittals. He stated groups who were not grant recipients, participating in the event, could let him know if they were interested in visitations from the City, prior to June 27, 2014. Coordinator Ho recognized Lieutenant Aguinaga who received a Distinguished Service Award. He announced they had been working with the tenants at the Deer Valley Plaza to address criminal behavior in the area and have had no cooperation from the management company. He stated Lori Cook and Barbara Cowan were heading up that task group and there would be another meeting in the near future. He noted the next area they would focus on would be the Delta Square shopping center and suggested Commission Davis be involved in that effort. He reported Commissioner Gadams had been working with the shopping center located on Lone Tree Way and Sunset Lane. He noted efforts to clean up shopping centers were the first steps toward a Business Watch program.

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

- a. July 21st, 2014 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting
- b. July 5th, 2014 – Neighborhood Clean-up. Delta Estates Neighborhood - Marchetti Park/Turner Elementary School

Chairperson Cook announced the meeting, presentation and event schedule.

Steve Huddleston, suggested traffic calming measures for Gentrytown Drive at Putnam Street.

Lieutenant Aguinaga suggested Mr. Huddleston contact City Engineer Bernal with his request.

Chairperson Cook suggested Mr. Huddleston attend the City Council meeting and discuss his concerns. He noted City Manager Duran could also be reached through email and his email address was available on the city's website.

Stephanie Sterling added that she had also witnessed unsafe driving in the area.

A speaker questioned why the City had not called in outside agencies to assist the Antioch Police Department.

Chairperson Cook responded that outside agencies were also short-staffed. He recognized Chief Cantando for being transparent in reporting crime statistics for Antioch. He reiterated the importance of calling in suspicious circumstances.

Marianne Harrison reported Contra Loma Estates Homeowners Association had been paying individuals to clean up the neighborhood.

Fred Nunoz, announced their Neighborhood Watch adopted the park and on the first Saturday of every month they are cleaning up the neighborhood. He stated they had started a facebook page for their neighborhood.

Chairperson Cook recognized Keith and Janet Farr for starting the Adopt-a-park program.

Sandra McKee, questioned why owners of the shopping centers could not be held accountable for maintenance of their properties.

Chairperson Cook stated he had informed business owners that residents were afraid to patronize the shops in Deer Valley Plaza. He stated the FoodMaxx and Baskin Robbins both indicated a corporate representative would be attending the next meeting. He also reported a second security guard had been hired for the area.

Laquetta Franz, encouraged residents to not be reactive when dealing with problem properties and to educate neighbors. She asked when grants would be awarded for National Night Out.

Coordinor Ho stated she would be notified through mail or email before the July meeting.

Cynthia Wheller, Commercial Real Estate broker for the Delta Square shopping center, reported she had worked with the landlord and tenants to create a Neighborhood Watch group for the center. She reported she also had Sycamore Square listed and she would like information regarding the Neighborhood Watch group for that area.

Chairperson Cook added that Strategic Management had been hired to provide security at the Sycamore Square shopping center.

Commissioner Augusta invited everyone to attend the "C" Street Neighborhood Watch barbeque at City Park on June 19, 2014.

Lori Cook reported the meeting at Deer Valley Plaza was attended by Lieutenant Aguinaga and City Manager Duran who were very involved in efforts to improve the area. She noted the next meeting would be attended by an Attorney to advise merchants. She further noted corporate for FoodMaxx was involved and they were hiring their own private security. She reported there was a new owner of Schooners who was supportive of the group's efforts. She expressed concern that many of the lights in front of the theater were not working.

Chairperson Cook reported that while the FoodMaxx representative was at the meeting, someone had broken into a delivery truck behind the store.

Commission Gadams suggested a future agenda item be a discussion on how residents could approach the City Council with their concerns.

Commissioner Davis reported in the past they dealt with problems at Deer Valley Plaza by stating they would not do business there until the issues had been addressed.

Renee Feder, stated she was available to make a presentation on the improvements they had made at their shopping center. She encouraged tenants and the public to voice their concerns and report problems to property managers.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Williams

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 21, 2014 at 7:00 pm.