

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M.**

**June 21, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

The City of Antioch, in response to the Executive Order of the Governor and the Order of the Health Officer of Contra Costa County concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), held Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting live stream (at www.antiochca.gov/apcpc/meeting/). The Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting was conducted utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dawson called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M., on June 21, 2021.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Randolph, Munton, Eubanks Chairperson Dawson
Absent: Commissioner Everett (arrived at 7:20 P.M.) and Commissioner Lewis (arrived at 7:23 P.M.)

Staff: Sergeant, James Stenger
City Attorney, Thomas Lloyd Smith
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2 PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION:

Operation Genesis – Jason Johnson

Chairperson Dawson announced Mr. Johnson had a flat tire this evening and suggested this item be tabled.

On motion by Commissioner Eubanks, seconded by Commission Munton the Police Crime Prevention Commission tabled the Presentation to the July Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Munton, Randolph, Eubanks and Dawson
Absent: Lewis and Everett

2. COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS:

I. Business Watch Implementation – Reports to All Commissioners

Coordinator Ho reported there were two organized Business Watch groups at the Marina and Somerville Towne Center.

Commissioner Eubanks reported the Marina Business Watch group was active until COVID-19 and since then the Business Watch Partner for that group Gary Clausen, representing Twin River Marine Insurance, informed him that no longer had time to devote to this effort. He stated he was currently looking for another partner and noted he would report back to Chairperson Dawson on the status of that endeavor.

II. Community Outreach Sub Committee “Bridging the Gap” – Commissioner Lewis

No report

III. Proposal to Change Mission Statement and Responsibility for Crime Prevention - Commissioner Eubanks

Chairperson Dawson reported he submitted the proposal to change the Mission Statement and Responsibilities to Mayor Thorpe for review and he was waiting for a response.

In response to Commission Eubanks, Chairperson Dawson explained that Lieutenant Meads had indicated that the proposed changes were well received within APD. He noted they were still able to continue under the current Mission Statement and Responsibilities. He further noted he had not received any negative feedback regarding the proposed changes. He clarified that the protocol to get formal reports in front of Council included agendizing the item for discussion and approval of the Police Crime Prevention Commission and submitting it to the City Manager and Mayor to prioritize for the City Council’s agenda.

Commissioner Eubanks stated he felt the process was bureaucratic if a Neighborhood Watch group had a specific problem that needed to be addressed.

Chairperson Dawson responded that it was important to have a public process and follow the Brown Act for formal requests of Council; however, if an issue was brought forward as a result of a Neighborhood Watch meeting it could be discussed as part of the Police Crime Prevention Commission agenda.

Commissioner Eubanks reported that Council read the minutes from the Police Crime Prevention Commission meetings and were aware of the business before them.

Chairperson Dawson confirmed minutes were posted with the agendas.

Commissioner Everett arrived at 7:20 P.M. and noted he had just come from work.

Coordinator Ho commented that if a Commissioner encountered a law enforcement issue that was actionable at a Neighborhood Watch meeting they could bring it to the attention of Lieutenant Meads.

IV. Publicize Neighborhood Watch and Available Tools with Social Media – Commission Randolph

Commissioner Randolph reported she had communicated with City Clerk Householder who explained Board and Commission vacancies were advertised in the City Manager's bi-monthly update when they were pulled from the City Council agendas. She noted City Clerk Householder invited the Commission to submit items to the City Manager's office to share through the City Manager's bi-monthly updates, should they choose to do so. She further noted the document submitted with this agenda had a suggested draft of some items they could possibly submit to be shared on the APD social media pages. She commented if the Commission agreed, she would volunteer to submit items to Lieutenant Meads to submit to the APD social media team for posting and then she could monitor them and respond to any questions.

Commissioner Lewis arrived at 7:23 P.M.

3. COMMISSION CHAIR COMMENTS:

Chairperson Dawson announced that Commissioners should be using their City issued email addresses when conducting business on behalf of the Commission. He noted that Neighborhood Watch was starting to ramp up and there would be a presentation from Coordinator Ho later in the agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

V. APPROVAL OF CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2021

On motion by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Randolph the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the minutes of March 17, 2021 as presented.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

I. PCPC NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND AVAILABLE SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS DOCUMENT – Commissioner Randolph

Commissioner Randolph stated the only actionable item would be if the Police Crime Prevention Commission agreed to the suggested posts to be shared through the Antioch Police Department social media pages. She noted she would begin at monthly intervals to share one of the topics with Lieutenant Meads to pass on to the Antioch Police Department social media team.

City Attorney Smith commented if the Commission had posts that would represent the voice of the Commission, they would want to vote on those items, because they would want to know that the Commission agreed that the information represented them.

Chairperson Dawson reported that part of one page of the recommendation for publication was missing from the agenda packet and suggested tabling the matter until the next Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

Commissioner Eubanks commented that there was a grammatical error in the last sentence of the document.

Commissioner Randolph suggested the Commission review the suggested draft postings and then at the July Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting she would present the edited version for consideration.

City Attorney Smith added that they could consider the document at the next Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting and provide their input or make any necessary edits at that time. He noted if there was a finished document for distribution, they could do it via a one-way email. He further noted attaching it to the agenda would also be appropriate.

Chairperson Dawson questioned if the Commission would like any other information promoted through social media.

Commissioner Eubanks suggested the Commission consider that the Marina and Chateau Mobile Home Park Business Watch groups had their own social media pages to share information on the Police Crime Prevention Commission.

City Attorney Smith explained the rules being discussed applied to this Commission because it was an entity governed by the Brown Act. He stated he could follow up with Commissioner Eubanks offline.

In response to Commissioner Everett, City Attorney Smith explained that if a Commissioner had questions or concerns related to information provided in an email, they could bring those items to the meeting to discuss in public.

Commissioner Randolph suggested that she review the document and provide a final draft to Chairperson Dawson for distribution to the Commission who could then review and bring their suggestions and comments to the July Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Everett, seconded by Commissioner Lewis the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously tabled this item to the July 19, 2021 Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

II. ANTIOCH NOISE ORDINANCES – Commissioner Eubanks

Commissioner Eubanks reported Block Captain Wayne Steffen had contacted him regarding an incident he had with a neighbor, and he was looking for clarification on Antioch noise Ordinances. He noted this matter ended up with a confrontation between two neighbors. He further noted they had provided Mr. Steffen with a copy of the City's noise ordinances. He suggested the City's noise ordinance be agendized for discussion at a future meeting. He commented if the Commission could be a conduit for information regarding this issue, it may prevent altercations from occurring.

Commissioner Randolph stated she believed it would be a great presentation and suggested the presentation be given by an Antioch Police Officer so they could discuss what the ordinance is and what actions were taken for violations.

Commissioner Munton stated the reporting process for noise complaints should be discussed because it was up to dispatch to determine whether an officer would be responding to those types of calls for service. He noted at times even when dispatched the call may not be responded to, based on priorities. He further noted based on his experience the noise ordinance was outdated, poorly written and dispatch gave significant pushback when instances were reported. He stated that resulted in a conflict between neighbors and a conflict between the reporting party and dispatch. He commented that he felt the current noise ordinance was full of loopholes and unenforceable.

Commissioner Lewis agreed with Commissioner Randolph noting that anytime they had the opportunity to inform the public of the process and their rights it was powerful for the community.

City Attorney Smith commented that the Commission may want to start with Title 5, Chapter 17 of the Municipal Code regarding Disturbing the Peace.

On motion by Commissioner Eubanks, seconded by Commissioner Munton the Police Crime Prevention Commission unanimously directed staff to agendize a presentation from City staff on the noise ordinances for the July or August Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

III. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS – Coordinator Ho

Coordinator Ho announced he sent out the proposed division of Neighborhood Watch Commission Assignments. He stated the assignments were for Block Captain's whose emails were still active; however, because of COVID-19 many groups had stopped meeting. He noted the point behind the reassignment was because many previous Commissioners have left, and the Block Captains needed a liaison back to the Commission. He suggested Commissioners try to contact their groups to see if they were still interested in Neighborhood Watch and if they want to reactivate and begin to have meetings with the Commissioners or among themselves. He requested Commissioners let him know if the Block Captains no longer wanted to be listed or if they wanted to schedule a meeting or if they wanted new Neighborhood Watch materials. He suggested Commissioners encourage Block Captains to host meetings with their groups and maybe invite a Commissioner to attend. He noted if there

was any information that the Commissioners did not have, they could bring those questions back to the Antioch Police Department so they could provide a response.

In response to Commissioner Eubanks, Coordinator Ho stated that none of his groups had changed; however, some may have been deleted due to inactive email addresses. He reported that the "C" Street Neighborhood Watch group was no longer active because they did not have a Block Captain. He encouraged Commissioner Eubanks to reach out to that group to see if anyone would like to volunteer as Block Captain so it could be reactivated.

Commissioner Eubanks volunteered to be assigned the "C" Street group if they were reactivated.

In response to Chairperson Dawson, Coordinator Ho stated if there were no assignment changes after this evening's meeting he would begin sending emails to all Block Captains notifying them that Commissioners would be contacting them and the email address would have the domain name @antioch.ca.commission.gov.

Commissioner Munton suggested that the email from Coordinator Ho inform the Block Captains that they may be contacted by phone or email.

Coordinator Ho responded that he would do so as he believed it was a good idea. He confirmed that all email blasts he sent out are in the BCC format.

Commissioner Lewis questioned if there was standard language to send out to the Block Captains.

Following discussion, consensus of the Commission was for Coordinator Ho to send an email to the entire list of Block Captains notifying them that they would be contacted by a Commissioner and providing the domain name of the email. Additionally, an email would be drafted to gain whether they wanted to continue or have their name removed or wanted to be designated inactive. Furthermore, the email would list the tools that are available to the Block Captains.

Commissioner Eubanks suggested a repository perhaps through SharePoint or OneDrive for the various Police Crime Prevention documents.

Commissioner Randolph stated if Coordinator Ho could send a link or list of the available Neighborhood Watch groups, she would volunteer to create a draft email template within a week of receiving the information.

Coordinator Ho responded that he would appreciate the assistance and he would send Commissioner Randolph a list of the available documents. He noted if a repository becomes available, they could send the link to Block Captains.

Commissioner Eubanks stated he had quite a few electronic documents in google drive.

Coordinator Ho stated that now that the Commission was using City email addresses the documents also needed to be in the City's domain.

Chairperson Dawson requested Commissioner Eubanks share the google drive with the Commissioners so they could see what documents were available and evaluate whether to move them to a public drive so Block Captains could access them.

Consensus of the Commission was to direct Coordinator Ho to send out a mass email to all Block Captains informing them of the following:

- New Commissioners were being assigned to their groups
- Domain name of the addresses utilized by the Commissioners

In addition, they agreed to the following:

- Coordinator Ho will send a list of available resources to Commissioner Randolph
- Commissioner Randolph within 1 week of receiving the list would draft a template for all Commissioners to use as their welcome email
- One week after the template was emailed to Commissioners they should send it out to all their Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

In response to Commissioner Munton, Coordinator Ho and Commissioner Randolph stated they would have tasks completed and the draft email would be available within 2-weeks.

IV. BRIDGING THE GAP PROGRAM REVIEW – Commissioner Lewis

Commissioner Lewis explained the Bridging the Gap subcommittee consisted of Commissioners Eubanks, Morales and himself who met to develop the program. He stated the program was designed to reach larger segments of the population consisting of four pods including parents, youth, faith-based community, and business owners. He noted the goal was to create an opportunity for Peace Officers and the community to engage in healthy conversations in non-combating situations regarding laws, rules and regulations that impacted them, without political influence. He reported there was interest from the City in creating a similar program and the Police Crime Prevention Commission was asked to shelve the program until Council completed their process. He stated he believed now may be the time to resume the conversation.

Chairperson Dawson announced he had sent all Commissioners the Bridging the Gap: Community Involvement Program document that was attached to the agenda this evening. He noted the document would be posted with the minutes as well.

Commissioner Lewis stated that he would resume the discussions if there was interest from the Commission.

In response to the Commission, Commissioner Lewis explained the Commissioner's role would be to identify groups, coordinate participants and act as a facilitator to begin the

process. He stated that he believed initially a community engagement officer should be the peace officer involved. He noted a public location may be best suited for meetings; however, the committee had not discussed potential locations, but he would be willing to have that discussion. He further noted this program would augment the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch programs.

Sergeant Stenger stated that he believed this program was a great idea and noted anything they could do to communicate with the community particularly those who may have problems with law enforcement or preconceived ideas was positive for the community.

Chairperson Dawson stated that the Commission should consider reactivating the ad hoc committee and adding the third member to review the results of the City's Bridging the Gap program and determine how to develop a program for the Commission to offer.

City Attorney Smith reported the City Council's Bridging the Gap series concluded and consisted of zoom meetings that focused on different areas and groups with a consultant who was facilitating the process. He noted if the Police Crime Prevention Commission wanted to move forward with this program, they would be able to build on those efforts.

Commissioner Munton requested the results of the Bridging the Gap meetings.

City Attorney Smith responded that rather than him reporting it here, it may be more appropriate to have someone from the City Manager's office share the results of the Focus Strategies report. He noted there was a lot of good information. He explained that staff, Council and the Antioch Police Department participated in various groups only as observers of the conversations.

Chairperson Dawson stated he would ask for a presentation on the Bridging the Gap report.

Commissioner Eubanks stated making this program implementational was key.

City Attorney Smith noted if this program was similar to the Barbershop Forums, it would be aimed at trying to get a conversation between the Antioch Police Department and members of the community in a less formal setting so they could have conversations about issues that may exist within the community. He encouraged Commissioners to attend Barbershop Forums to see how they worked.

Commissioner Lewis stated Barbershop Forums were available online and noted those forums were between law enforcement and leaders; however, the Police Crime Prevention Commission's program shifted it to law enforcement and community.

Following discussion, the Bridging the Gap Ad Hoc Committee was comprised of Commissioners Lewis, Everett and Munton.

In response to Commissioner Lewis, Chairperson Dawson stated once the timeline for the Ad Hoc Committee was provided, he would determine where they were in the 6-month to 1-year timeline and how to proceed. He encouraged the ad hoc committee to start the conversations

and announced that he would reach out to City Manager Bernal to get a formal presentation on the Bridging the Gap results.

V. SCHOOL WATCH AND CARE PROGRAM – Chairperson Dawson

Chairperson Dawson announced that the Mayor had a press conference where he discussed various initiatives he would like implemented in the City and one of them was a call to the Police Crime Prevention Commission to potentially work on the creation of a School Watch and Care Program which would be similar to Neighborhood Watch or Business Watch, where the Commission would bring the community together to be a presence at major sporting and school events. He questioned if the Commission was interested and wanted to create an Ad Hoc Committee to begin the conversation. He clarified that this would involve making recommendations to the City Council on the creation of a new program.

In response to Commissioner Eubanks, Chairperson Dawson clarified the program would consist of coordinating parent volunteers to be present at high profile school activities.

Commissioner Randolph stated she saw value in the suggestion; however, the intent was unclear. She questioned if there was information that events occurred due to the lack of exposure of adults or law enforcement. Additionally, she asked if it would be beneficial to have “chaperones” for events and what their parameters would be.

Commissioner Munton questioned if the School Watch and Care program would supplement, replace or augment law enforcement.

Chairperson Dawson stated he believed the volunteers would take an observe and report stance. He noted this program was not to change or alter law enforcement or school safety officers’ activities. He noted PTA or interested parents could give guidance as to what kinds of activities needed additional oversight.

Commissioner Lewis reported when he first became a Commissioner, Coordinator Ho mentioned that Commissioners should not wear their logos in public because if something were to happen and they were wearing that logo the community may believe they were serving in the law enforcement role. He cautioned that it may not be their intent but there may be potential for community members to become more involved because they believed they had the backing of law enforcement. He stated if the Commission proceeded, they needed to be careful on vetting the people involved.

Commissioner Eubanks stated he believed the Commission bylaws stated that the Commission shall not be participating in operational situations with the Antioch Police Department.

Chairperson Dawson clarified the intent was to have citizens, parents and volunteers receive extra training to observe and alert Antioch Police Department or School Officials if a situation was escalating. He confirmed that this program would be an extension of the Neighborhood

Watch and Business Watch program. He stated he would provide more information and questioned if the Commission wanted to potentially look at this program.

Commissioner Lewis stated he supported looking into the creation of this program and discussed the importance of being very clear on the intent. He explained that there was a private school that had a parent brigade that helped with parking which engaged parents in the community. He noted if thought about like that rather than looking at the crime aspect, it may help the Commission with the intent behind the program.

Commissioner Eubanks suggested getting a better definition of the intent of the program.

Commissioners Lewis, Munton and Chairperson Dawson volunteered to participate in conversations with Council to determine the scope of the program and bring it back to the Commission for a report and consideration.

VI. PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY 2 & 3 CALL FOR SERVICE – Sgt. Stenger

Sergeant Stenger gave a PowerPoint presentation of Priority 1, 2, 3 and 4 Calls for Service and Response Times.

Commissioner Munton explained that his experience was that dispatch was inundated with calls some being calls that they should not be dealing with, and they were receiving those calls because they were the only option afterhours. He noted lower priority calls during evening hours were either not being answered by dispatch or not being responded to by the Antioch Police Department. He questioned if there was another way to call for help other than the APD.

Sergeant Stenger explained that unfortunately that was the way the system was set up.

Commissioner Munton stated he believed the City needed to be more creative because if calls were not responded to it could result in a neighborhood dispute and the Antioch Police Department would take the brunt of the dissatisfaction.

In response to Chairperson Dawson, Sergeant Stenger explained that calls for service were responded to, based on priority. He noted there were service guidelines where some calls for service would not be responded to which was decided on the administrative level.

Commissioner Munton questioned if there was a workable solution. He noted noise complaints were not responded to and there was a high probability the matter would escalate. He questioned if there was a possibility of having someone on the non-emergency side of the Antioch Police Department and dispatch to answer and respond to these types of calls.

Sergeant Stenger stated he believed Commissioner Munton was referring to animal complaints and the Antioch Police Department did not respond to those calls most of the time; however, they responded to most other noise complaints.

Commissioner Munton questioned why the Antioch Police Department did not respond to animal complaints.

Sergeant Stenger responded that he did not know why; however, it was part of their procedures.

Commissioner Munton reiterated that it was a significant noise issue and the Antioch Animal Control voicemail indicated that if the call was afterhours, they should call non-emergency dispatch; however, when called, they stated they did not address those issues. Meanwhile, the animal issue continued throughout the night. He noted citizens with animal issues were being ignored.

Sergeant Stenger apologized for no one responding to his calls.

Commissioner Munton stated the ordinance as written was almost unenforceable. He noted this reflected on the Antioch Police Department, the City and staff. He suggested having a conversation regarding this matter to determine if there was a solution.

Chairperson Dawson commented that they would have a discussion at a future meeting on noise ordinances.

Commissioner Randolph suggested in preparation for the presentation on the noise ordinance, they tap into Lieutenant Meads and present the issues Commission Munton spoke of, so they know who needed to be part of that conversation so questions could be addressed.

Chairperson Dawson thanked Sargent Stenger for the presentation. He reported he had a priority one call for service that was responded to immediately.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

Commission Communications Agenda Item #8 was heard prior to Staff Communications Agenda Item #7.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson Dawson stated there were three presentations that had been prioritized for July and August so he questioned if the Commission wanted to prioritize the presentations or schedule an additional meeting.

Commissioner Randolph suggested Operation Genesis and the Noise Ordinance presentations be scheduled for July and the Bridging the Gap presentation be scheduled for August.

Commission consensus supported the following presentation schedule:

- Operation Genesis – July

- Noise Ordinance – July if possible
- Bridging the Gap – Consultant Report - August

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Coordinator Ho announced the VIPS were back on patrol as of today and going forward there would be one team per day Monday – Fridays to augment parking enforcement. He hoped to increase the teams on the street.

Commissioner Dawson congratulated Coordinator Ho and asked him to pass on their gratitude to the VIPS program.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Munton the Crime Prevention Commission members unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 19, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Kitty Eiden

KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk