

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 19, 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. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Dawson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on July 19, 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Commissioners Everett, Randolph, Munton, Eubanks and Chairperson Dawson
Absent: Commissioner Lewis (arrived at 7:02 P.M.)

Staff: Lieutenant, Powell Meads
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

3. PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION

Operation Genesis – San Francisco Police Officer Jason Johnson

Officer Johnson discussed his professional history and gave a PowerPoint presentation of a program he created, Operation Genesis – A Journey to Self-Discovery. He provided the following information:

- The non-profit program Operation Genesis was developed from Officer Johnson's experience mentoring children at the Boys and Girls Club in District 10 in San Francisco
- Children were supervised on trips outside of the community
- Many children had a perception of community or culture that was inaccurate
- The program was developed to take children to Ghana Africa, and expose them to a culture where everyone got along
- Up until the pandemic and since 2014, they had taken 70+ youth to Ghana, which was a life changing, educational and positive experience for everyone who participated
- The Essential Relief Program was developed to deliver essential items to residents during the pandemic and served 100+ families
- The Youth Career Academy summer program was created seven years ago to expose youth to careers centered around the legal system

- The Youth Career Academy partnered with Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblyman David Chu, CHP, SFPD, SFSD, SFFD/EMT, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, DA Office, Public Defender, Superior Courts and KTVU
- Some youth who participated in the Youth Career Academy were ready to graduate as attorneys and police officers
- The Neighborhood's United Program was designed to bring individuals (ages 18-30) from different neighborhoods together and at the end of the 6-week program they were all friendly
- The Neighborhood United Program will be expanded into other neighborhoods on August 1, 2021, and it was focused on money management
- Last year 100+ children participated in the program and they were paid and fed to participate
- Operation Genesis was developed to create a new culture and self- identity
- Retreats were taken to Sonoma County

The Commissioners thanked Officer Johnson for the presentation and congratulated him on the success of his program.

In response to the Commission, Officer Johnson provided the following additional information:

- Engaging the youth took place by observing their needs and interests (i.e. basketball) and then engaging in those activities
- The name 'Operation Genesis' was used because it was a new beginning to a new culture
- Female youth participated in the program
- The program was run by donations and sponsors
- They were looking for areas to expand the program

Commissioner Eubanks suggested Officer Johnson connect with Mission Possible to collaborate on a local program.

In response to Commissioner Lewis, Officer Johnson explained how he became interested in law enforcement.

Chairperson Dawson thanked Officer Johnson for his time and the presentation.

4. COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

I. Neighborhood & Business Watch Implementation – Report by All Commissioners

Commissioner Eubanks reported he would be meeting with the Madill Street Neighborhood Watch at 7:00 P.M. on July 20, 2021, which would be their first meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. With regards to Business Watch, he noted he was still attempting to find a new partner for the Marina Business Watch group.

Commissioner Lewis reported he would be reaching out to his Neighborhood Watch groups this week.

Commissioner Everett reported that he along with Coordinator Ho attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Bella Rose Apartments. He noted they were excited to get their group established and information was left with them on implementing their group. He further noted they were requesting assistance from the Antioch Police Department regarding loitering and illegal activities occurring at their complex.

Commissioner Munton reported he emailed the Block Captains on his list and received four responses, one who remained active, two disbanded and one who was looking for a replacement Captain. Additionally, he and Coordinator Ho had met with residents of Lilly Court who were concerned regarding homeless activities in the area and the delay in police response.

Commissioner Randolph reported on her attendance with Coordinator Ho at the Almond Knolls Neighborhood Watch. She commented that emails went out to her Block Captain assignments, and she would be reaching out to those who provided only phone numbers by the end of this week. She noted she had received one communication back.

Chairperson Dawson reported he had sent an email to his Block Captain assignments and had received two responses. He noted one was from a duplicate group which was referred to Commissioner Eubanks, one was an active group looking to schedule a meeting and another looking to schedule their first meeting, which he would be following up on.

Coordinator Ho reported he had met with the residents in the Blacktail Court Neighborhood Watch on behalf of Commissioner Everett who was out of the state. He noted they reviewed police responses and discussed the importance of watching, reporting and sharing information.

Chairperson Dawson thanked Coordinator Ho for stepping in for Commissioner Everett.

Lieutenant Meads reminded the Commission that he would like to have officers respond out to the Neighborhood Watch meetings and requests could be put in through Coordinator Ho or by emailing him directly. He noted absent an emergency he would do his best to have an officer attend.

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

Commissioner Lewis stated they received information from Officer Johnson this evening and they would have a deeper conversation regarding implementing some of those items. He reported he would be scheduling a subcommittee meeting to develop next steps and he would report out at the next meeting.

Commissioner Eubanks offered to send an introductory email for Commissioner Lewis to Mission Possible so they could be included in the conversation.

Commissioner Eubanks commented that he agreed with Barbershop forums to open communication.

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

Commissioner Eubanks reminded Commissioners that he reviewed the Mission Statement because he wanted to ensure that the Commission could make a difference and have an opportunity to have two-way communications.

Chairperson Dawson reported the City Council was on summer break and their next meeting was scheduled for July 27, 2021. He noted he would follow up with Mayor Thorpe to get the Commission's proposed changes agendaized for Council consideration.

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

Commissioner Randolph reported she had worked through Lieutenant Meads and the Antioch Police Department Social Media Team had posted the availability of Neighborhood Watch on the Antioch Police Department Facebook page.

Chairperson Dawson thanked Commissioner Randolph for her excellent work and noted the posting was timely.

5. COMMISSION CHAIR COMMENTS

Chairperson Dawson encouraged the Police Crime Prevention Commission to watch videos of the City Council Police Oversight Committee meetings available on the City's website. He encouraged Commissioners to keep up the good work with Neighborhood Watch. He stated he looked forward to the Bridging the Gap process.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

V. APPROVAL OF CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 21, 2021

On motion by Commissioner Eubanks, seconded by Commissioner Lewis the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of June 21, 2021 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

7. REGULAR AGENDA:

I. ANTIOCH NOISE ORDINANCES – Staff Presentation Lt. Meads & Animal Services Manager Harding

Lieutenant Meads gave a presentation on Antioch Municipal Code *Title 5, Chapter 17: Disturbing the Peace*, and how they were enforced which included the following:

- All current Municipal Codes were located on the City's website at: Departments - Code Enforcement - Code Enforcement Drop Down Menu - Municipal Code
- The Antioch Police Department does not determine unreasonable loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noises, individual citizens determined what was loud or disturbing to them
- Anyone whose peace is disturbed can call Antioch Police Department to make a complaint
- To enforce this section, they needed a victim whose peace was disturbed and who wanted to press charges against that person

Commissioner Munton expressed concern that the municipal code outlined specific noises and then stated "among others", so when an officer arrived for a disturbing the peace call looking for specifics, some noises were not listed. He commented that most people were not familiar with the City's ordinances. He added that the City Council may need to review the municipal code and remove ambiguous terms so when an officer arrived at a call, it would be very clear on what was considered disturbing the peace.

Lieutenant Meads continued with his presentation:

- Loudspeakers and sound amplifiers
 - Could be enforced without a victim if the officer witnessed the activity
 - Often complaints were anonymous
 - Misdemeanor violations
- Heavy construction, Construction Activity
 - Had specific time constraints
- Chapter 13 – Unruly or Nuisance Gatherings
 - Specific to juveniles gathering and consuming alcohol
 - The officer responding would deem a gathering or party a nuisance or not
 - If deemed a nuisance they respond and contact the homeowner or responsible party, admonish them that the event is a threat to the public health, safety etc. and warn them that they could be liable for the cost of any subsequent police services
 - Calls were entered digitally and preserved so if they had to respond a second time, they were cited and arrested if appropriate
 - The wages of the officer responding, and any costs associated were billed back to the person for continuing a nuisance gathering
- All Antioch Police Department policies can be found on the City's website at: Departments - Police Department - SB978 Policy Manual and Training Materials

In response to Commissioner Randolph, Lieutenant Meads clarified that there was no timeframe associated with nuisance calls. He added that the municipal code was specific to a threat to public health and safety.

In response to Commissioner Eubanks, Lieutenant Meads stated attempting to resolve the matter without calling the Antioch Police Department would be a judgment call by the victim. In response to Commissioner Munton, Lieutenant Meads stated a standard noise complaint would be a lower priority three call; however, depending on other factors it could vary.

Commissioner Munton questioned if there would be an opportunity to clarify the City's ordinances to make the Antioch Police Department's job easier. He reported in his experience, dispatch decided if the Antioch Police Department would respond.

Lieutenant Meads explained Dispatch had policies and procedures regarding what they would and would not take as a call for service and whether to dispatch officers. As an example, he noted it was their policy that the Antioch Police Department not respond to noise complaints regarding animals. He commented that Dispatchers were trained to follow Antioch Police Department policy.

Commissioner Munton stated that the above-mentioned policy set up the Antioch Police Department for dissatisfaction.

Lieutenant Meads responded that in general, lower priority calls were deemed non-responses to increase overall satisfaction with citizens. He explained that it was done to free up officers for higher priority calls.

Commissioner Munton commented that if calls were not answered, citizens would feel discounted and dissatisfied. He stated he did not believe higher priority calls were coming in so rapidly that Antioch Police Department could not eventually address them.

Animal Services Manager Harding gave a presentation on noise ordinances, Antioch Municipal Code – *Title 6, Chapter 1 Animals*, and how they were enforced.

- Dispatch referred calls that came in at night to Animal Services the following day
- During the day Animal Control Officers would contact the owner and establish what the situation was and offer suggestions to mitigate barking
- Second complaint within 30-days an officer would respond and discuss the situation and may issue a letter with information on how to mitigate barking
- An officer would visit a residence at various times to try to establish whether a dog was barking incessantly for 30-minutes
- Animal Services offered a referral service for mediation for ongoing issues
- An officer had to observe barking to issue an administrative citation

In response to Commissioner Munton, Animal Services Manager Harding explained that if the dog stopped barking within the 30-minute window, it was not considered incessant barking. He noted an Animal Control Officer would not observe for 24-hours to determine if 60 minutes of barking occurred during that time.

In response to Chairperson Dawson, Animal Services Manager Harding explained that the way the ordinance was written an officer would have to witness intermittent barking within a 24-hour period. He noted they talked to residents about maintaining a barking log and taking videos; however, for them to move forward the resident would have to file a civil case. He reiterated without the ability to witness the dog barking for 30-minutes, they were unable to issue an administrative citation.

Commissioner Munton commented that it seemed ironic that he could call for 2-years on a barking dog, and it could not be located by Animal Services. He noted he was not an individual who complained; however, when he had a problem, he wanted it resolved. He questioned why Animal Services could not communicate with the dog owner that barking was out of control, and something needed to be done or that mediation at the City level could not occur, to avoid a civil suit. He noted the result was that two neighbors were in a dispute regarding this matter and Animal Services was not involved.

Public Comment

Lieutenant Meads read public comment from Wayne Steffen, Antioch resident, discussing loud music at residential gatherings. He suggested the following:

- Publication and enforcement of existing regulations
- Police Crime Prevention Commission issue a press release to publicize the public nuisance ordinance
- Placing the public nuisance ordinance in a more prominent place on the City's website
- Improving the search capability on the City's website
- Request City Council speak about this issue

Lieutenant Meads stated that the noise ordinances were enforceable throughout the day and if the reporting party wanted the best chance that the item would be addressed, they needed to leave a name, address and be willing to follow through.

Commissioner Munton commented that residents did not leave information because they believed their concerns would be addressed and they may also fear retaliation or escalation. He reiterated the City's noise ordinances needed to be reviewed and possibly revised by the City Council.

Commissioner Eubanks agreed with Mr. Steffen's suggestion for publishing the City's noise ordinances. He noted a vague ordinance gave the citizen's more latitude to report the noise nuisance.

Commissioner Randolph suggested the Police Crime Prevention Commission, through social media, highlight a given section of the Antioch Municipal Code and provide a link to the City's Ordinance.

Commissioner Munton agreed with Commissioner Randolph and suggested enhancing posts with types of responses from the Antioch Police Department.

Commissioner Lewis suggested leading the conversation with the understanding that some items were interpretive because if they were all-inclusive anything outside of that would not fall into the category. He agreed with Commissioner Randolph and suggested identifying topics for small Town Hall events to provide the opportunity for residents to have questions answered.

Commissioner Munton discussed the importance of directing complaints where they could be addressed effectively.

On motion by Commissioner Eubanks, seconded by Commissioner Munton the Police Crime Prevention Commission directed the Social Media Subcommittee to develop posts on different portions of the noise ordinances to be released on social media. The motion carried the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eubanks, seconded by Commission Munton to form a sub-committee to review the establishment of a public forum to discuss quality of life issues within Antioch.

Commissioner Randolph speaking to the previous motion, questioned if it involved the creation of a new subcommittee or if it would fall under an existing subcommittee.

Commissioner Eubanks suggested using the Bridging the Gap subcommittee for this function.

Commissioner Lewis commented that adding items to Bridging the Gap subcommittee prior to establishing a program may delay implementation, so perhaps in the future this item could be absorbed into the program.

Following discussion, Commissioner Eubanks withdrew his previous motion. The Police Crime Prevention Commission agreed to place a discussion on potential forum topics on the next Police Crime Prevention Commission agenda.

II. ANTIOCH HISTORICAL MUSEUM RECOGINTION – Vice Chair Eubanks

Commissioner Eubanks reported there was an incident on July 13, 2021, at the Antioch Historical Society in which Antioch Police Officers apprehended a person attempting to vandalize their property. He suggested a letter of recognition be sent to the officers for their proactive enforcement efforts.

City Attorney Smith speaking to the following motion, explained that a draft letter would come back to the Police Crime Prevention Commission for review and approval. He noted this body would be sending a letter on behalf of the Police Crime Prevention Commission.

Lieutenant Meads stated he could also write a letter of recognition to go into the officers' personnel files.

Commissioner Eubanks volunteered to draft the letter of recognition and send it to Chairperson Dawson to review and agendaize for consideration at the next Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

On motion by Chairperson Dawson, seconded by Commissioner Lewis the Police Crime Prevention Commission directed a letter of recognition be drafted expressing gratitude to the officers involved for their proactive policing efforts.

III. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2021 – Chairperson Dawson

Chairperson Dawson commented that National Night Out had previously been cancelled due to COVID-19; however, some community members had reached out regarding holding smaller events in recognition of the August 3, 2021 event. He suggested residents inform the Police Crime Prevention Commission if they wanted to have the presence of an officer at their neighborhood parties. He discussed the potential of a press release encouraging Neighborhood Watch groups to hold events and informing them to RSVP to the Police Crime Prevention Commission to schedule Antioch Police Department and Commission presence.

Commissioner Eubanks stated he believed it was a good idea to publicize events.

Coordinator Ho stated since he had the Block Captain's email addresses, he would volunteer to be the contact person for RSVPs for National Night Out Block parties. He noted he would request RSVPs be sent to his email address by July 28, 2021, so he could collate responses and send them out to Commissioners and Lieutenant Meads to coordinate with Antioch Police Department personnel. Additionally, he noted the Antioch Police Department's Facebook page could publicize the event.

Following discussion, Lieutenant Meads stated he would post the event on the APD Facebook page as soon as possible. He requested emails clarify that the City was not issuing formal block party permits, so events would need to take place on private property.

Chairperson Dawson thanked Coordinator Ho for his assistance and suggested Commissioners watch their inbox for schedules.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

i. Coordinator Ho: Neighborhood Cleanups, VIPS program update

Coordinator Ho announced VIPS had been reactivated and were assisting in abandoned vehicle abatement. He noted for the month of July they responded to 1700+ complaints, towed 400 vehicles and were catching up on the backlog. He further noted they did not have sufficient staffing to reinstate Neighborhood Cleanups; however, they hoped to begin again in September.

- ii. Lt. Powell Meads, Antioch Police Department
No report.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Randolph announced the APD hosted a Fill-A-Car event to collect school supplies for underserved students on July 17, 2021, and the next event would be held from 12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. on July 24, 2021, in the Slatten Ranch Shopping Center. She noted a list of supplies needed were posted on the APD website and Facebook page.

Coordinator Ho announced that any Commissioner wishing to represent the Commission at the Fill-A-Car event could do so to help solicit donations.

Commissioner Randolph responded that she would be attending the event and bringing a donation.

Commissioner Lewis announced he would be sending an email to the members of the Bridging the Gap Committee to schedule their next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 16, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kitty Eiden
KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk