

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
September 18, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on September 18, 2017 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint and Chairperson Thurston

Absent/Resigned: Commissioner Parham (arrived at 7:13 P.M.), Commissioners Solorio and Davis (Coordinator Ho reported during Staff Communications that Commissioners Solorio and Davis had resigned from the Commission)

Staff: Captain, Tony Morefield
Lieutenant, Tarra Mendes
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

3. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Thurston introduced Captain Morefield, Lieutenant Mendes, Coordinator Ho and Minutes Clerk Eiden. He discussed manner in which the meeting would be conducted. He announced the Crime Prevention Mission Statement was available in the community room this evening. He welcomed new Neighborhood Watch participants who introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July 17, 2017)

On motion by Commissioner Eubanks, seconded by Commissioner White the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of July 17, 2017 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners White, Eubanks, LaPoint and Chairperson Thurston
Absent: Commissioner Parham

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kiran Singh, expressed concern previously resolved issues in her neighborhood were now resurfacing. She reported residents who did not pick up after their animals had negatively impacted her quality of life. Additionally, she noted there had been several window smashing incidences and the homeless were leaving debris in her neighborhood.

Chairperson Thurston responded animal and homeless issues were items to be addressed by Code Enforcement. He suggested victims of vandalism report it to the Antioch Police Department non-emergency line. Additionally, vehicles parked on the street for more than 72 hours, should be reported to the abandoned vehicle number.

Denise Paul expressed concern regarding residents hosting parties that violated the noise ordinance. She also stated oncoming cars failed to stop at the roundabout on Dallas Ranch Rd. and Mokulmne Dr., which was very dangerous.

Chairperson Thurston suggested Ms. Paul report noise complaints to the Antioch Police Department non-emergency line. He cautioned that it may take some time for police to respond because calls were answered based on priority.

Commissioner Parham arrived at 7:13 P.M.

Captain Morefield suggested Ms. Paul report the roundabout issue to the Antioch Police Department traffic division as it may need directed enforcement. Regarding noise complaints, he explained that parties typically occurred on weekends when officers were out on a large number of priority calls. He noted they would respond; however, often times it was much later and after the issue had been resolved. He urged her to continue to report the incidents to Antioch Police Department.

Ms. Paul stated she had reported the incident to the Antioch Police Department and they had not responded.

Captain Morefield stated he would discuss the issue with Ms. Paul after the meeting. He reiterated that the Antioch Police Department would respond; however, it may not be in sufficient time to have an effect on the incident. He clarified that Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) could not respond to noise complaints.

Kiran Singh reported she had had items stolen from her porch.

Chairperson Thurston urged Ms. Singh to report stolen items to the Antioch Police Department non-emergency number.

A speaker stated there had been a discussion at the July Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting regarding responses to calls and residents who had not received a response from the Antioch Police Department when their alarm was activated.

Captain Morefield responded that he had discussed this issue with those residents after the meeting and subsequently investigated the incident. He reported that it was discovered that the officer had responded; however, when he attempted to make contact at the door, the residents did not hear him knock.

The speaker added that it was brought up that there would be discussion at the following meeting regarding what the protocol was for police response.

Captain Morefield reiterated that officers would always respond; however, it may not be in the timeframe residents expected as it depended on priority calls for service.

Chairperson Thurston suggested residents request an incident number when calling in so that if it becomes necessary, the call could be investigated. He stated in his personal experience Antioch Police Department had always responded to his issues.

Captain Morefield added it was easiest to investigate a call by incident number; however, there were other ways and they had no issue with investigating incidents.

In response to a speaker, Captain Morefield stated response times were available on the City's website and they had improved, especially priority one calls. He noted the Antioch Police Department was authorized for 103 officers and currently there were 97. He further noted they were working hard to hire additional officers.

Lieutenant Mendes stated that typically one officer was hired out of one-hundred applicants. She noted there were currently five vacancies and two were in the academy.

Captain Morefield stated they strived to improve response times and one way to do so was through staffing. He explained that staffing for the Antioch Police Department was determined by the City Council.

Chairperson Thurston added if residents had opinions on this matter, they could voice them during Public Comment at Council meetings.

Captain Morefield reiterated that the Antioch Police Department did not set the level of staffing; it was determined by Council and based on finance.

A speaker questioned if new development would increase staffing levels for the Antioch Police Department.

Captain Morefield responded that police services fees were attached to new developments; however, funds needed to be actualized in the budget prior to increasing staffing levels. He noted this item would be discussed at the September 20, 2017 Planning Commission meeting.

Chairperson Thurston suggested residents attend Planning Commission meetings to voice their opinions.

A speaker thanked the Police Crime Prevention Commission for the gift card for National Night Out. She reported they had a wonderful response and thanked the Antioch Police Department for participating.

6. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION:

Community Engagement – Captain Morefield

Captain Morefield stated Chief Brooks had given the Antioch Police Department the following priorities; training, community engagement and technology. He noted he had taken the lead on community engagement, which he recognized to be very valuable to the department.

Captain Morefield asked the audience what community engagement meant to them, to which they responded:

- Reporting on events
- Connecting with community
- Programs such as DARE
- Police Crime Prevention Commission outreach
- Working with the homeless

Captain Morefield explained that community engagement was beyond partnerships, it was building real and strong relationships with all aspects of the community. He stated they were asking line level staff to intentionally participate in community engagement; however, calls for service would remain their priority.

Captain Morefield asked the audience why community engagement was important, to which they responded:

- More people on the same team, can make more positive changes
- Builds awareness of what was occurring in neighborhoods
- Builds trust between Antioch Police Department and residents
- Builds relationships with the homeless and assisting them with housing

Commissioner Parham stated she had witnessed officers playing basketball with children, which she felt was positive engagement with the community.

Captain Morefield stated mistakes were unavoidable; however, they did not want to end up like other agencies that had made really big mistakes and did not have a relationship, trust or communication with the community. He discussed incidents in other cities in which the community had no trust or relationship with their police

departments. He noted a lot of data regarding diversity and who their police department was pulling over was not known until after the fact.

In response to a resident, Captain Morefield explained that the Antioch Police Department took data into account and strived to reflect the demographic of the community. He discussed a Public Service Announcement that showed a white officer who had pulled over a young African American male with a child in the back who was watching the exchange. He noted it showed different perspectives of the stop and demonstrated that if they were having these types of discussions, miscommunications would not occur.

Captain Morefield reported during training there was a discussion that compared the relationship between two strangers on an elevator versus siblings. He noted they had determined that the sibling relationship could withstand a lot because they had a much closer connection and that was the purpose of emphasizing the importance of community engagement. He added that the Neighborhood Watch program was mutually beneficial due to the relationships that had developed and they were attempting to expand upon that with residents and the business community. He reported examples of community engagement were; an officer who had spent a few minutes talking with a child and K9 demonstrations.

In response to a speaker, Captain Morefield explained they began with training officers on community engagement and then sharing ideas on how to begin outreach to the community. He stated he had challenged officers to contact Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, and cautioned them to not make any promises to the community that they could not keep. He noted when an officer participated in community engagement; they closed their call out with the acronym "COPD". He reported another example of community engagement was when two officers had staged a photo with some children who were in a toy car to make it appear as though they were pulling them over. He noted he was encouraging officers to find other ways engage the community.

Kiran Singh reported the City of Modesto had a program for homeless.

Captain Morefield responded that Antioch also had a program that provided services and they had been very active with channeling resources to the homeless.

Captain Morefield asked the audience to rate on a scale of 1-10 the relationship between the Antioch Police Department and certain segments of the community to which they responded:

- Downtown Business – 5
- Dentist Office – 7-8
- Rite Aid on Lone Tree Way – 0
- Youth - 5

A speaker stated she worked at a bar where a high ranking member of the police force would come on weekends for a cup of coffee and when incidences occurred people were more willing to communicate with him.

In response to a speaker, Captain Morefield stated he challenged officers to reach out to schools as part of their community engagement activities.

A speaker stated her grandson saw a police officer and immediately thought there were problems. She stated she would like him to feel more comfortable.

Captain Morefield responded that that was the point of community engagement. He stated as a swat officer he served a search warrant and when he was going through a bedroom a child woke up and began screaming. He stated he removed his swat gear immediately and comforted the child; however, it broke his heart that the child identified police with terror in the night and he did not want that to be what children thought about the police department.

A speaker suggested partnering with the School Districts for community engagement.

A speaker suggested offering field trip tours of the Antioch Police Department.

Coordinator Ho provided contact information for anyone wishing to schedule a tour of the police department. He announced on November 14, 2017, he would be conducting a tour for second graders.

Captain Morefield stated they were interested in reaching all segments of the community and he hoped to check back in to see if any audience members had witnessed any community engagement activities occurring.

A speaker stated with community engagement officers would also get to see the positive side of the community.

Captain Morefield asked the audience for their ideas for engaging the community to which they responded:

- Walking beats
- Visiting locations for the citywide garage sale - September 30, 2017
- Visiting the children's department at Barnes and Noble
- Visiting coffee shops
- Traffic stops for good behaviors possibly giving out gift certificates
- Saying hi and smiling at residents
- Giving gang presentations at the middle and high schools
- Holding community forum for teens
- Attending Back to School nights
- Attending Rivertown merchants meetings

Commissioner Parham commented that the Rivertown Merchants were the newest Business Watch group.

Captain Morefield thanked everyone for their feedback this evening.

Chairperson Thurston thanked Captain Morefield for the presentation and the residents for their input.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Business Watch Implementation

Chairperson Thurston announced they had held their first Business Watch meeting with the downtown merchants and the next meeting would be held on October 12, 2017.

Coordinator Ho added that he would be facilitating the Neighborhood Watch meeting on October 5, 2017 on "G" Street.

Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee

Commissioner White announced the next Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee meeting would be held in October and she would notify Block Captains when the date was determined.

Commissioner Followup on Block Captain Verification Calls

Chairperson Thurston reported Block Captain Verification calls were still in progress and should be completed by the next Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting.

Commissioner Followup on National Night Out

Chairperson Thurston reported that National Night Out was a very successful event.

Commissioner Parham thanked the head librarian for the Antioch Library for hosting the National Night Out event for the "C" Street Neighborhood Watch group. She stated it was a very successful and fun event for the community. She reported Officer McGruff visited several block parties and police officers displayed their vehicle.

Various speakers stated National Night Out was a fun event and it helped promote their Neighborhood Watch groups. One speaker commented that the Fire Department demonstrated their fire hose which helped cool off attendees.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Eubanks suggested the Police Crime Prevention Commission consider forming a subcommittee to bring forward recommendations for expanding the use of the Police Crime Prevention webpage for the exchange of information between Block Captains and the Commission.

Following discussion, the Police Crime Prevention Commission determined that this function could be dealt with by utilizing Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee. Coordinator Ho encouraged Commissioner White and Eubanks to work together to gather suggestions at their next meeting.

9. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioners

Commissioner Parham reported several new residents had moved into Antioch and suggested Neighborhood Watch participants introduce themselves to their new neighbors in an effort to strengthen their groups. She urged residents witnessing suspicious activity, report it to the Antioch Police Department.

Commissioner Eubanks reported the Antioch Police Department had implemented 911 by text messaging.

Captain Morefield clarified calling was the best way to reach 911 services quickly; however, if anyone was in a situation where they were unable to speak, texting 911 was available.

Commissioner Eubanks reported he attended National Night Out in the Silverado neighborhood where they had discussed utilizing security cameras at the entrance to their neighborhood to deter criminal activity. He commended the Antioch Police Department for their work with the homeless. He stated he had reported several concerns via the seeclickfix app, which had been addressed.

Chairperson Thurston stated if anyone needed assistance with the seeclickfix app, they could contact him following the meeting.

A speaker reported that her neighborhood had considered using security cameras; however, they would have had to pay for them and have them installed at residences near the entrances to their neighborhood.

Commissioner LaPoint thanked Antioch Police Department for utilizing the next-door app for the introduction of police officers.

Lieutenant Mendes thanked Commissioner LaPoint for the recognition.

Commissioner White reported she had been introduced herself to the new neighbors and invited them to participate in Neighborhood Watch. She reminded residents as the holiday season approached to be mindful of packages being delivered to their homes.

Antioch Police Department Staff

Coordinator Ho announced Commissioners Solorio and Davis had resigned and there were vacancies on the Police Crime Prevention Commission. He reminded Commissioners Eubanks and LaPoint that they would need to reapply to the Commission in October. He announced Commissioners White and LaPoint would be setting up a table to distribute Neighborhood Watch information at the Back to School Day event at Old Navy on September 30, 2017.

Lieutenant Mendes announced the Antioch Police Department would be hosting a Trick or Treat event from 3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. on October 31, 2017 in the Police Department community room. She noted they were looking for donations, which could be dropped off at the Police Department to the attention of Lieutenant Mendes or Ana Cortez or by contacting Coordinator Ho. She encouraged everyone to bring their children to the event.

Commissioner Eubanks stated he had a fog machine that he could donate for the event.

Coordinator Ho reported he had participated in last year's Halloween event and it was very fun. He encouraged residents to attend.

Captain Morefield announced that this was his last Police Crime Prevention Commission meeting as liaison and Lieutenant Mendes would be taking over. He stated he would occasionally be attending future meetings and he would be following up on community engagement. He thanked everyone for the feedback they had provided.

Chairperson Thurston welcomed Lieutenant Mendes.

Lieutenant Mendes announced the Citizens Academy was coming up in the near future and Vice Chair White would be participating. She stated there would be another event in 2018.

Chairperson Thurston stated the Citizens Academy was very valuable and worth the time.

A speaker questioned if there was a mail distribution list for events.

Lieutenant Mendes stated the events were listed on the City's website and on social media via facebook and nextdoor.

Coordinator Ho reported he would send out the information on the next academy to everyone on the Neighborhood Watch email distribution list.

Chairperson Thurston announced the following meeting and event schedule.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS/EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

- October 7, 2018 – Neighborhood Cleanup
- October 16, 2017 – Crime Prevention Commission – 7:00 P.M., APD

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Davidson reported they had worked with the Public Works Department and their neighborhood had received a new LED street light that had improved lighting in the area.

A speaker added that Public Works had indicated that the residents would have to pay for the street light; however, they had subsequently been informed that it was paid for out of the City's budget. He reported the new light covered approximately four times the area and filled the gap in between existing lights.

A speaker requested the Antioch Police Department assist the crossing guards noting some parents verbally assaulted the employees.

Chairperson Thurston encouraged the speaker to call the issue in to the Antioch Police Department non emergency number.

A speaker suggested contacting the school to have them request patrols of the area.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Commissioners White, Parham, Eubanks, LaPoint and Chairperson Thurston

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 16, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.