

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
October 16, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on October 16, 2017 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Thurston discussed the manner in which the meeting would be conducted. He announced copies of the phone listing and Police Crime Prevention Mission Statement were available in the community room. He welcomed new Neighborhood Watch participants who introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 18, 2017)

Chairperson Thurston amended the minutes of September 18, 2017, page 3, paragraph 11, to read, "A speaker questioned if new housing developments would increase staffing levels for the Antioch Police Department."

On motion by Commissioner Parham, seconded by Commissioner Eubanks the Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the minutes of September 18, 2017 as amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

6. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

Justin Gomez, Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition, gave a brief professional history and PowerPoint presentation on Human Trafficking, which included the following:

1 – Human Trafficking is much more than it is portrayed to be

- Complicated issue that happens everywhere
- Exploitation of a person for the purpose of commercial sex or labor
- Sex trafficking consists of adult sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children/youth (CSEC/CSEY)
- Actions/Means/Purpose - Means (force, fraud or coercion), Purpose – (commercial sex trafficking or labor/services trafficking), Action – (induce, recruits, harbors, transports, provides or obtains)

2 - Human Trafficking is a local issue

- 1,323 cases in California in 2016
- 409 victims served in Contra Costa County June 2014-2016

3 – Human Trafficking can happen in plain sight

- Ag/farms
- Domestic work
- Restaurants
- Factories
- Peddling & begging rings
- Hospitality industry
- Construction
- Day laborers
- Nail salon
- Massage
- Residential brothels
- Gang prostitution
- Strip clubs
- Escort services
- Truck stops

Mr. Gomez urged anyone suspecting a human trafficking situation submit a tip to their local police department or the National Human Trafficking hotline.

Chairperson Thurston stated all street vendors should have permits from the City and residents should report suspicious situations to the Antioch Police Department.

4 – Human Trafficking impacts our most vulnerable populations

- Homeless and runaway youth
- LGBTQIA community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual)

5 – You can help combat human trafficking

- Become a member of coalition
- Help spread awareness
- Attend Red Sand Project and participate in training; October 19, 2017, Antioch Community Center
- Contact information #redsandproject, [redsandprojectantioch.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/locations/antioch-ca-94509)
- Know the signs and report suspicious activity

In response to a speaker, Mr. Gomez explained young women were more vulnerable and recruitment often occurred on social media.

In response to Commissioner Parham, Mr. Gomez stated they would like to provide a school based curriculum; however, it was matter of capacity and limitations. He noted community members could advocate for local school curriculum.

Commissioner White reported she had worked with victims who were groomed and recruited by a friend of a relative.

Mr. Gomez stated often times traffickers were direct family members or friends, which often resulted in out of area or state placement for the survivor.

In response to a speaker, Mr. Gomez stated he did not have specific statistics; however, they worked across agencies to meet the goals of survivors by providing them with the tools to live a life outside of trafficking. He reported over 100 victims a year had been served.

Chairperson Thurston stated that if the police identified someone under human trafficking they were treated as a victim.

Mr. Gomez added they were receiving the services and support as victims and survivors. He noted awareness was essential and had the potential to save lives. He further noted the airline industry was providing training and had been successful at identifying many victims.

Commissioner White reported that victims were as young as 11 years old.

In response to a speaker, Mr. Gomez explained they worked with service providers to build cases against traffickers. He noted they also cultivated relationships with the victims to get their cooperation to testify.

He announced the Red Sand Project was a free event and open to public from 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. on October 19, 2017. He stated anyone interested in participating in the training could register online. He noted anyone unable to attend could obtain red sand

toolkits by contacting him via email or they could be ordered online at redsandproject.org.

In response to a speaker, Mr. Gomez stated prosecution and demand reduction varied County to County and the coalition took a neutral stance on demand reduction; however individual law enforcement agencies had more direct efforts. He stated they worked with those law enforcement agencies to connect with resources to reduce demand reduction. He reported the Antioch City Council would be considering a ban on hourly hotel rooms.

Chairperson Thurston thanked Mr. Gomez for the presentation.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Business Watch Implementation – Status / issues / next step

Chairperson Thurston reported on his attendance at the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch meeting with downtown merchants and residents. He noted John Goodson would lead the Business Watch group and Joy Motts would lead the Neighborhood Watch groups.

Neighborhood Watch Best Practices Committee

Commissioner White announced the next Best Practices Committee meeting would be held in November and once the date was determined she would be sending out notification to Block Captains.

Commissioner Followup on Block Captain Verification Calls

Chairperson Thurston reported to date the results of Commissioners Eubanks and LaPoint and himself totaled 205 calls, of those 49 Block Captains had been confirmed active, 95 Block Captains were confirmed inactive and follow up would occur for the 61 who were non-responsive. He noted that by the next meeting they should have results from all verification calls.

In response to a speaker, Lieutenant Mendes explained that as part of community engagement activities Antioch Police Officers had been contacting Block Captains and introducing themselves. She clarified that if contact was made via email the address would include a first initial and last name of the officer and come from @ci.antioch.ca.us.

Chairperson Thurston explained that the information gathered from the verification calls would facilitate building a list of areas in the City for the Commission to focus on.

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commission

Commissioner Eubanks reported that he had been a Commissioner for 6-months and it was an incredible experience. He noted he had reapplied so that he could continue to serve to the community.

Chairperson Thurston clarified that both Commissioner Eubanks and LaPoint were appointed to fill existing terms which would expire and he encouraged both of them to reapply.

Commissioner Eubanks reported he had participated in a ride-along that was very insightful and he hoped to use his abilities to serve the community. He stated he had observed that establishing Neighborhood Watch groups was challenging. He noted he felt it was important for Commissioners as well as Block Captains to attend City Council meeting and report back to the Police Crime Prevention Commission. He further noted that it was also important that the Commission's Charter and strategies be adaptable as exemplified for the Business Watch program.

Commissioner Parham reported Officer Mayer had been going door-to-door in his beat introducing himself to residents in her neighborhood and following his introduction, he recognized her at Dennys when he was out on a call for service.

A speaker commented that nextdoor was also introducing beat officers.

Lieutenant Mendes explained that with the new schedule, the Antioch Police Department had a double crew day. She noted they had put concerted effort into improving and adding to social networking which included Meet Your Beat which introduced Police Department personnel to the community.

Commissioner White urged residents to call in suspicious activity to the Antioch Police Department. She reported that she was participating in the Citizens' Academy and they had been a presentation from the Dispatch Supervisor who acknowledged the public's frustrations. She explained that dispatch received approximately 1700 calls a week and they were doing their best to prioritize calls. She stated priority calls received a response first; however, they did not want that to deter residents from reporting. She encouraged residents to be patient.

In response to a speaker, Lieutenant Mendes responded that Corporal Chang was involved in social networking.

In response to Commissioner Eubanks, Coordinator Ho stated he would send out an email to Block Captains communicating that the Antioch Police Department was attempting to contact Block Captains.

Staff

Coordinator Ho announced a Councilmember Ogorchock was sponsoring a Senior Walk from 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. on November 3, 2017 at Somersville Towne Center and the Police Crime Prevention Commission would be attending to distribute safety information. He announced a poker tournament and benefit dinner would be held at 5:00 P.M. on November 4, 2017 at the Community Center for Detective Meghan Miller.

Lieutenant Mendes added that Corporal Steve Aiello and Sacred Sons Motorcycle Club would be hosting the benefit for Detective Miller who had recently been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She announced a Halloween event would take place from 3:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. in the Antioch Police Department community room. She stated they were accepting donations for the event and any leftovers would be given to police officers who would distribute them to children on Halloween night.

Coordinator Ho provided a contact number (925-595-6848) for anyone wishing to participate in the poker tournament/dinner fundraiser.

Chairperson Thurston thanked staff for assisting the Commission.

10. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- November 4, 2017 – Neighborhood Clean Up – 9:00 A.M. at Williamson Ranch Park
- November 20, 2017 – Crime Prevention Commission meeting

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

A speaker reported that she had received a call from someone who stated they were collecting funds for the police department, which she had determined to be a scam.

Lieutenant Mendes explained that the Antioch Police Department did not solicit funds over the phone. She suggested if residents wanted to donate to a Police Activities League (PAL) program that they donate locally to the Antioch PAL.

A speaker stated he had received a call from a telemarketer who asked if he could hear her. He noted that he was aware that if he answered "yes"; his response could be utilized later in a fraudulent manner.

Lucas Stuart-Chilcote reported that his father's vehicle had been broken into and \$2000.00 worth of equipment was stolen. He reported that company and homeowner's insurance would not cover the vehicle because it was not parked on their property. He cautioned residents to secure their valuables.

Chairperson Thurston cautioned residents to avoid leaving any valuables in vehicles and suggested parking in areas with other vehicles.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Parham, seconded by Commissioner White the Crime Prevention Commission unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 20, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.