

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
October 20, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on October 20, 2014 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

Chairperson Cook announced there was a vacancy on Police Crime Prevention Commission and encouraged residents to apply.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 14, 2014)

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Gadams the Crime Prevention Commission unanimously approved the minutes of September 14, 2014 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathie Fitzpatrick, Antioch resident, presented her "Welcome to the Neighborhood" packet and discussed its contents. She noted when new residents moved into the area, a neighbor introduced themselves and invited them to attend their Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Sandra Kelly added that anyone wishing to receive the information contained within the packet, could contact her and she would distribute it via email.

Commissioner Gadams encouraged Ms. Fitzpatrick to make a similar presentation at a City Council meeting.

Cynthia Wheeler, McPherson Properties, reported they had recently listed several properties that had been neglected and they had received threats regarding the condition of these properties, which frightened them. She noted concerns were forwarded to property owners and their policy was to educate the owners to be a good neighbor and improve Antioch. She encouraged residents to continue to report their concerns and to also provide them with information regarding what businesses and services were needed in their neighborhoods.

Linda Crossen, Antioch resident, reported a tenant in a rental property in her neighborhood did not have garbage service and a relative of the tenant had been approaching them in a threatening manner. She questioned how they should deal with the situation.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained the Antioch Police Department did not handle civil matters or evictions. She stated if a person trespasses on their property, they can be asked to leave and to not come back and if they return, a citizen's arrest could be initiated. She noted lack of garbage service should be reported to Code Enforcement. She encouraged Ms. Crossen to report trespassing to the Antioch Police Department, request an event number and journal each incident.

Lori Cook stated she would put Ms. Crossen in touch with Environmental Resource Coordinator Julie Haas-Wajdowicz and Republic Waste regarding the lack of garbage service.

Cindy Osborne, Antioch resident, read the Commission a letter outlining her concerns for the safety of students and staff at Antioch Unified School District schools.

Chairperson Cook stated Ms. Osborne had valid concerns and noted he would be reporting on his attendance at the meeting for Deer Valley Plaza, under Commission Communications.

Larry Harrison, Antioch resident, stated informational flyers for Measure O were available in the community room this evening and reported the opposition had sent out a flyer that was very misleading.

Sandra Kelly, Antioch resident thanked the Antioch Police Department for addressing the issues at 19th and C Streets and encouraged residents to patronize local businesses.

Chairperson Cook introduced City Council candidate Lamar Thorpe. He recognized new Neighborhood Watch participants who introduced themselves and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: R.E.A.C.H. Director Mickie Marchetti – Squires Program

Mickie Marchetti, R.E.A.C.H. Director, introduced himself and explained R.E.A.C.H. program was a juvenile diversion program provided through the Police Department which was developed as an alternative to the juvenile justice system. He reported capacity was approximately 400 cases annually consisting of approximately one-half of all lower level juvenile offense cases He noted R.E.A.C.H. interviewed families that were referred for parent involvement and youth screening, and those families were further screened for the Squires Program which was a specialized diversion program within San Quentin prison. He clarified it was not a "Scared Straight Program" and participants were informed that they would be treated well by Squires members. He introduced Fred Varner to give details of the program.

Fred Varner, Squires Member, stated it was a privilege to be before the Police Crime Prevention Commission this evening. He explained that he had a vested interest in the program due to his desire to change a negative experience into a positive one. He stated he was grateful for the people who believed in him and showed him there could be something better in his future. He explained individuals in the San Quentin Squires Program were given an opportunity to participate based on meeting behavior expectations and showing they had a vested interest in giving back to the community. He stated he gave presentations to various schools and spoke to the importance of outreach to at-risk youth. He reported 80% of youth going through R.E.A.C.H. program turned their lives around. He stated he advised participants to be an asset in the community and encouraged parents to be insistent with offering to assist their children with making a positive change in their lives. He gave an overhead presentation regarding the San Quentin Squires Program which included the following information:

- It is not a scared straight type of program - there are no physical confrontations
- An inmate educates participants about prison life and addresses healthy behaviors
- The program takes place over the course of two consecutive Saturday mornings

In response to members of the public, Mr. Marchetti and Lieutenant Aguinaga explained the following:

- The age range for participants was 14-17
- Parent involvement was not required for San Quentin Squires Program
- Parent involvement was required for R.E.A.C.H.
- Parents concerned regarding their child's behavior could call R.E.A.C.H. for services
- A FAQ of local resources would be drafted for distribution to the Neighborhood Watch groups
- Referrals to R.E.A.C.H. were for youths with no priors
- It was a privilege to go to R.E.A.C.H. and once completed, the incident was removed from their record
- R.E.A.C.H. was funded by the City of Antioch, Contra Costa County Health Services and the Antioch Unified School District

Chairperson Cook reported on his attendance at the San Quentin Squires Program and noted he had witnessed its success. He encouraged residents with troubled youth to contact R.E.A.C.H.

A resident suggested the R.E.A.C.H. – Squires Program presentation be made at Parent Teacher Association meetings and Antioch Unified School District Board meeting.

Stephanie Sterling reported her daughter had been a participant in R.E.A.C.H. program and it had been instrumental in turning her life around.

Chairperson Cook thanked Mickie Marchetti and Fred Varner for the presentation.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Taylor stated there are Halloween safety tips flyers available in the Police Department Community room this evening. She announced a blood drive, sponsored by Matthew Quimet, would be held from 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. on October 31, 2014 at Saint Ignatius Church. She stated while filling in for Coordinator Ho while he was on vacation, she had received information regarding a scam where an individual received a phone call notifying them that they had pending litigation with the U.S. Treasury. She cautioned residents to not to become a victim of this scam. She reported she had also received a call from residents concerned that people were rummaging through refuse containers and redistributing items, causing recycling items to no longer be sorted. She noted residents could get fined for having contaminated waste in their recycling cans so if similar activity was occurring in their neighborhoods, Republic Waste should be informed. She stated there was another resident who contacted her regarding an issue related to Section 8 standards.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was responsible for Section 8.

Commissioner Davis cautioned residents to be mindful of having packages delivered to their door during the holiday season and take precautions. He also suggested residents have their garbage cans brought in as soon as possible, so people were not aware they were not home during the day. He reported on his attendance at a Neighborhood Watch group meeting.

Commissioner Gadams distributed a handout regarding home break-ins and precautions residents could take to avoid being victimized. He stated he would be requesting Coordinator Ho send the information out to Block Captains, via email. He informed residents that there were apps available to monitor alarms systems and lights in your home, while you are away. He cautioned residents to monitor their children's

Halloween candy and throw away anything opened. He urged residents with concerns about the City, to address them at a City Council meeting. He stated excessive speed had become a problem and increased traffic enforcement was needed to address these concerns.

Commissioner Williams informed residents that they could have packages sent directly to the store of purchase. She announced the City had received the COPS grant to hire additional officers for high crime areas in Antioch. She announced community input opportunities for the preparation of the Downtown Specific Plan and General Plan Land Use/Zoning Update would be held on November 12, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

Commissioner Augusta reported he was a California High Patrol (CHP) combat shooting survivor and as such he was nominated to be entered into the National Police Hall of Fame and he had received a Purple Heart award. He acknowledged the Doctors who saved his life. He announced they had developed an organization called Badge of Life Police Mental Health Program.

Chairperson Cook stated it was an honor to serve on the Police Crime Prevention Commission with Dick Augusta. He introduced Debra Vinson candidate for the Antioch Unified School Board. He reported the Deer Valley Plaza meeting was very successful and the School was working with the Police Department to identify problem students. He noted the probation department would be adding a condition to students on probation that would prohibited them from going to Deer Valley Plaza and the District Attorney had also agreed to find and file charges on those who were committing crimes. He announced Leo Fontana Police Activities League (PAL) Bowling League just participated in their fifth week and the next bowling event would be held in February. He explained nine schools hosted afterschool programs with 720 participants and they had discussed expanding youth sports activities. He stated the Neighborhood cleanup event in the Sycamore corridor was very successful. He reported he had attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting on Hudson Court and the new management company had made tenant improvements to advance the area. He discussed an incident where two individuals were in an altercation and the mother of one of them took him back to the scene with a gun to confront the other one. He noted the girlfriend of the potential shooter, was able to prevent him using the weapon. He spoke to the value and success of the R.E.A.C.H and Squires programs.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported R.E.A.C.H information was available on the Antioch Police Department's website or through police dispatch. She stated Mr. Marchetti had offices in Antioch, Oakley and Brentwood.

b. Staff

PUBLIC COMMENT - Continued

Cynthia Wheeler, Antioch resident, stated she had encountered a couple living in vehicle behind their building and she had suggested they talk with the Antioch Police

Department to get some assistance, however they were not willing to cooperate. She noted since that incident she had observed them parking on Somersville Road. She questioned who could be contacted to provide resources for these individuals.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported the Contra Costa County Homeless Advocacy group could be contacted through the Contra Costa County website.

Wayne Steffen, Antioch resident, questioned if the Parks and Recreation Commission participated in cleanup events.

Sandra Kelly announced community input opportunities for the preparation of the Downtown Specific Plan and General Plan Land Use/Zoning Update would be held on November 12, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at Prewett Park and November 19, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. at a joint Planning Commission and Economic Development Commission meeting.

Chairperson Cook stated the entire community was invited to participate in monthly cleanups. He announced the following meeting/presentation and event schedule.

7. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. **November 17th, 2014 – TBT**
- b. **November 1st, 2014 – Neighborhood Clean-up – Almondridge Park – 3400 Almondridge Drive.**

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Gadams, seconded by Commissioner Davis the Crime Prevention Commission adjourned the meeting. The motion carried the following vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 17, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.