

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
November 16, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gadams called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., on November 16, 2015 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Taylor, Williams, Thurston, and Chairperson Gadams
Absent: Commissioner Parham, Solorio, Davis

Staff: Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga
Acting Sergeant, John Fortner
Detective, Matt Koch
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 19, 2015)

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Thurston the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of October 19, 2015 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Taylor, Williams, Thurston and Chairperson Gadams
Absent: Commissioner Parham, Solorio and Davis

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Padraza, Center for Human Development Minor and Youth Alcohol Prevention Program, provided an update of their operations in partnership with the Antioch Police Department for October and November.

Elizabeth Zaragoza, Center for Human Development, introduced herself and stated she would be conducting environmental prevention in Antioch primarily with the Hispanic community.

Julie Neward introduced herself as the new Property Manager at Somersville Towne Center and announced MadisonMarquette was the new management company for the property.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Taylor cautioned residents to make sure security codes are not exposed prior to purchasing gift cards and if possible, purchase directly from the desired retailer. She suggested residents be aware of the uniform resource locator (URL) when purchasing online to assure it was a legitimate business and a secure website. She reported she had received numerous complaints at Neighborhood Watch meetings regarding section 8 tenants and questioned if there were resources available for these residents.

Lieutenant Aguinaga stated she would discuss the issue with Commissioner Taylor following the meeting.

A resident stated that neighbors could sue in small claims court for houses that become public nuisances.

Commissioner Thurston reported on his attendance at a Business Watch committee meeting and urged residents to be aware when out in public.

Commissioner Williams reported attendance was down in Neighborhood Watch groups and suggested taking advantage of the holidays and hosting a Christmas party to encourage participation. She suggested residents ask neighbors to pick up packages being delivered when they were away from home and urged them to consider installing security cameras.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Detective Matt Koch – Narcotics

Detective Koch gave a Narcotics presentation and provided the following information:

- Special Operations Unit, Narcotics and Vice consisted of Sergeant Mortimer, Detective Lowther, Detective Hoffman and Detective Koch

STIMULANTS

- Most popular drugs were central nervous stimulants including methamphetamine and cocaine
- Methamphetamine was primarily in crystallized form and cocaine was in a finer form manufactured and shipped from Mexico
- Behavior exhibited from use was irritability, nervousness, severe mood swings, depression and paranoia
- Physical changes were an unkempt appearance, significant weight loss, irregular sleep, body sores, inability to be still, unable to track time and dry mouth

DEPRESSANTS

- Depressants included heroine, prescription narcotics and marijuana
- Heroine was on a significant rise nationwide
- Physical changes included sleepiness, raspy voice, itchiness, distancing oneself from friends and family, pinpoint pupils, weight loss, dehydration, body sores, and dry mouth
- Most common heroine was tarlike and ingested with a needle or mixed with baking powder to break it down into a powder
- Prescription narcotics were highly addictive, expensive and included xanax, oxycotin, vicodin, promethizine with codeine (sizzurp)
- Prescriptions drugs were commonly stolen or obtained through false prescriptions
- Prescription pads were often obtain by burglarizing doctors/dentist offices and pharmacies
- Promethizine with Codeine had a street value of \$800.00 per bottle
- Heroine was \$10.00 - \$20.00 per dose, easier to get and withdrawals were manageable
- Heroin addicts spend \$50.00 - \$200.00 per day to avoid withdrawals
- Addiction caused a rise in thefts and robberies to pay for habits
- Heroine death rates were extremely high nationwide

MARIJUANA

- Cultivation occurred indoors and outdoors
- Outdoor cultivation was typically legal and indoor cultivations were more common and typically illegal
- Over the past 5 years the operations unit discovered approximately 10-12 illegal grows per year
- Most common ways to locate illegal grows was through neighborhood complaints, fires, landlords or PG&E monitoring
- Typical indoor cultivation had lights on timers, windows covered, occupants not living in the home or arrived in the morning & departed in the evening, no garbage generation, unkempt yards and at times odor related
- Outdoor grows were harvested in or around October
- Indoor cultivations were harvested every three months
- Indoor grows typically bypassed PG&E meter and could have 500-1000 plants
- At times fertilizer containers, grow basins, plastic totes, garbage bags with leftover plants could be visible when garage doors were opened
- Fires were generally started from bypassed PG&E meters

A speaker stated people generally did not use the front door or garage when cultivating indoors and often papers would stack up outdoors.

In response to those in attendance, Detective Koch added:

- Mortgage fraud caused confusion regarding legal ownership of a home
- The majority of heroin arrived from Mexico, then distributed to Chicago and the East Coast
- Much of the distribution was from the cartels and gangs members
- Bypassed PG&E meters were undetectable from outside the home and usage would not vary throughout the day
- Antioch Police Department used undercover work and other investigative techniques to discover drugs
- Some grow houses were linked

Chairperson Gadams reported indoor cultivation could cause \$30-40k in damage to a residence. He added grow house operators always rented and were more prevalent in areas with low rent.

HAZARDS RELATED TO ILLEGAL DRUGS

- Home invasions, homicides
- Prop 47 which reclassified felonies to misdemeanors

In response to Commissioner Taylor, Detective Koch stated if he could take a person off the street for a day, it was a success. He noted many individuals were on probation or parole and could be taken off the street for an extended period of time.

Acting Sergeant Fortner stated non-violent crimes were being assessed differently and people were getting out of jail because of that. He noted it was frustrating for the Antioch Police Department; however, they do their job for the citizens and a frustrated officer was always working for the community.

In response to a speaker, Lieutenant Aguinaga clarified there were still “three strikes”; however, it had to be as a result of a violent felony.

Detective Koch stated rentals with new tenants that do not move in furniture, bring in lumber and appear to be constructing indoors, were indicators of a grow house. He noted typically they shipped marijuana across the Country where the profit was higher. He reported marijuana plants were ground up to make honey oil which at times exploded due to the use of butane in the process.

In response to a speaker, Detective Koch explained heroin addicts typically remove themselves from their environment and steal to support their habit.

In response to Commission Thurston, Detective Koch stated parents should look for needles, spoons, q-tips and empty prescription bottles contained within cases or packets. Contact information was provided for Sergeant Mortimer, Detective Lowther, Detective Hoffman and Detective Koch.

The Commission thanked Detective Koch for the presentation.

**7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)
(Continued)**

a. Commission

Chairperson Gadams distributed laminated cards with information on how to effectively report a crime.

Commissioner Thurston reported the City of Antioch website was a good source of information regarding Code Enforcement. He distributed copies of contact numbers and information regarding the common types of Code Enforcement issues. He urged residents to continue to report Code Enforcement issues until they are resolved.

Chairperson Gadams gave an overhead presentation of the City of Antioch's Code Enforcement webpage and explained how to report violations. He stated he had reported violations and was awaiting a response. He encouraged those in attendance this evening to take the information from this meeting back to their Neighborhood Watch groups.

Commissioner Thurston explained how to access the City Manager's weekly and monthly reports on the City of Antioch's webpage.

Chairperson Gadams stated he would be reaching out to Deputy Director of Community Development/Code Enforcement Graham to gather more information.

Lieutenant Aguinaga explained detailed information on Code Enforcement activities was available on the Code Enforcement webpage.

A resident reported he had attended Coffee with Councilmember Ogorchock who provided him with a card listing important contact numbers.

**8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)
(Continued)**

b. Staff

Acting Sergeant Fortner gave a history of his employment with the Antioch Police Department. He discussed the value of the Antioch Police Department immersing themselves into the community to create positive results. He stated the City's demographics changed; however, there was always a core of long standing citizens who provided good input. He noted each officer was often involved in different aspects of law enforcement, which resulted in a lot of talented personnel working with the citizens.

Chairperson Gadams thanked Acting Sergeant Fortner for his service.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported the Antioch Police Department swore in two new academy graduates and two laterals would be sworn in, in two weeks. She stated staffing levels would be up to 95 sworn officers by the end of December. She noted because Antioch had economic problems sooner than other cities, they became very good at having many jobs and the quality of officers was far beyond what most cities experience. She reported most Bay Area cities were experiencing problems with recruiting and Antioch was not; therefore, they had the advantage of choosing the best applicants. She added they had sorted through approximately 300 applications for Community Service Officers and would be hiring 5 more.

Chairperson Gadams discussed the importance of residents remaining vigilant and reporting suspicious activity. He thanked Lieutenant Aguinaga for her service.

In response to a member of the audience, Lieutenant Aguinaga reported the City currently had one traffic officer and Antioch Police Department was conducting monthly traffic enforcement details. She stated depending staffing levels, they may be increasing the traffic unit next year.

A speaker advised that speeding was a big concern at Gentrytown Drive.

A speaker reported she had noticed Antioch Police Department had been more visible throughout the community.

A speaker asked if there was a Task Force assigned to Wilbur Avenue, Cavallo Road and East 13th Streets areas to respond to racing and unsafe driving maneuvers.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported in the last month the City had responded to two side shows and towed many vehicles. She noted those were 30-day tows which were expensive and a deterrent.

Acting Sergeant Fortner explained what was being alluded to, was the larger transient group coming from out of the area, which was easy to enforce. He noted those that wished to continue had to pay stiff penalties. He reported an incident in West Oakland had approximately 400 cars and resulted in 150-200 towed.

Lieutenant Aguinaga reported Antioch Police Department was typically tipped off to side shows by CHP or other law enforcement agencies.

Acting Sergeant Fortner urged residents to call in and report when they hear or witness unsafe vehicle maneuvers.

In response to a speaker, Lieutenant Aguinaga explained the Antioch Police Department had a group of tow companies that were on a rotational list and vehicles

were impounded in their lots. She noted once impounded, they had to obtain a vehicle release from the Antioch Police Department prior to getting the vehicle back. She further noted this involved paying a fee to Antioch Police Department and to the tow company.

Chairperson Gadams announced the following meeting and event schedule. He stated that due to the next meeting falling on the week of Christmas, it may be cancelled.

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. December 5, 2015 – Neighborhood Cleanup – Prewett Family Park
- b. December 21, 2015 – Crime Prevention Commission meeting

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Commissioners Taylor, Williams, Thurston and Chairperson Williams
Absent: Commissioner Parham, Solorio and Davis

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on December 21, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.