

**ANTIOCH CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Antioch, California
December 15, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., on December 15, 2014 in the Antioch Police Department Community Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Chief of Police, Allan Cantando
Lieutenant, Diane Aguinaga
Deputy Director of Community Development/Code Enforcement Graham
Coordinator, Hans Ho
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 17, 2014)

On motion by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Gadams the Crime Prevention Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of November 17, 2014 as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Lawrence, Antioch resident, stated they had recently formed a Neighborhood Watch group and he thanked Coordinator Ho and Commissioner Taylor for their assistance.

In response to Commissioner Gadams, Mr. Lawrence explained that he personally invited neighbors to participate in Neighborhood Watch and he obtained personal information for a roster so that he could inform and remind them of meeting dates and times. He noted following meeting he sends out updates and meeting minutes to all participants.

Chairperson Cook recognized new Neighborhood Watch participants who introduced themselves and he thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)

a. Commission

Commissioner Taylor urged residents to avoid parking next to campers and motor homes in shopping center parking lots and have keys ready when exiting stores. She stated ATMs that are not well lit should be avoided. She suggested only withdrawing the amount of cash required and only carrying credit cards that are needed. She reminded residents not to post on facebook when they were away from home. She reported there was a scam regarding Amazon orders where purchasers are informed via email that there was a problem with their credit cards, which directed people to a website that obtained personal information. She urged residents not to follow links provided within emails.

Chairperson Cook recognized Councilmember Tiscareno in attendance this evening.

Commissioner Davis suggested residents have packages claimed by neighbors or sent to an address where someone was home to collect them. He announced vacation house checks were available by the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS).

Commissioner Gadams reminded residents to report suspicious activities. He stated he had recently reported illegal street vendors and the Antioch Police Department had addressed the situation in a timely manner. He thanked everyone involved in passing Measures C and O to fund public safety and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Augusta urged residents to load and unload their vehicles from the curb side and to avoid standing between two parked vehicles. He announced former Antioch Police Officer Lou Pangilli, one of the original K9 officers, passed away and there would be a service December 18, 2014, in Rio Vista.

Chairperson Cook announced appointment for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Crime Prevention Commission would be held on January 21, 2015. He noted the January meeting would be held on a Wednesday due to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. He commented that City Manager Duran's report indicated the City would be hiring Code Enforcement Officers. He recognized an Antioch resident who gave tickets to a Warriors game to the Police Activities League so that thirty-three (33) children would be able to attend. He reported both the Police Activities League and the Leo Fontana Foundation were attempting to develop afterschool activities for children. He noted high school children whose sports were not in season would be visiting middle schools to teach students. He reported on his attendance at the homeless task force meeting and noted the encampment at Hillcrest Avenue and Deer Valley was recently cleaned up by Code Enforcement. He urged residents to report the location of homeless encampments to the Code Enforcement Department. He announced flyers for the

REACH and SQUIRES programs were available in the community room this evening. He cautioned residents that mail theft had been occurring and suggested they request signatures for deliveries. He also suggested residents pick up packages for neighbors so they are not left out when they were away from home. He urged residents to stay off of cell phones when driving and shopping.

b. Staff

Coordinator Ho reiterated vacation house checks were available by the VIPS. He wished Commissioner Gadams a Happy Birthday.

Lieutenant Aguinaga thanked everyone who donated food to the food drive and announced they would be handed out to Antioch families on December 21, 2015.

Chairperson Cook stated donations directly to Loaves and Fishes on West 6th Street, would save the local branch \$1.18 per pound charged if they receive food donated to the food bank.

Chief Cantando announced consideration of the East Bay Regional Communication System and body cameras would be heard by the City Council in January. He stated it was reported that a resident had received a phone call from "Antioch 911" stating there was a warrant for a family member. He noted the system did not work that way and he cautioned people not to become a victim. He reported Strategic Threat Management was the security firm at Deer Valley Plaza and they had been very successful at decreasing police calls for service in the area. He noted the management company was also considering eliminating a smoke shop in the area. He announced the 9th Circuit was looking at the law regarding Police Chief's issuing concealed weapons permits. He anticipated a decision would be made in January and at that time; it would be posted on the Antioch Police Department's facebook page. He recognized the City Council's support of the Antioch Police Department.

In response to Commissioner Taylor, Chief Cantando stated it was too early to determine the impact of proposition 47 and those in support of proposition 47 did not represent Cal Chiefs. He noted some felony crimes were now misdemeanors therefore, he anticipated property crime violations to increase. He further noted those released from jail would be released on their last violation. He commented that he believed there would be a correction at the next election once the impacts were realized.

In response to a member of the audience, Chief Cantando clarified they were working on a policy regarding the use of body cameras. He noted the cost was approximately \$900.00 each and data storage was an additional cost. He stated the cameras would protect officers and citizens as well as the City from litigation. He noted the cameras were proprietary and software was encrypted.

Chairperson Cook reported he was at San Quentin last weekend and their newspaper advertised early releases for inmates convicted of property crimes under \$950.00.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF REPORTS

a. Presentation by: Ryan Graham, Neighborhood Improvement Services/Code Enforcement

Deputy Director of Community Development Graham gave a brief overhead presentation of Neighborhood Improvement Services/Code Enforcement. He noted as public officers, they have the authority to enforce provisions within Antioch's municipal codes. He gave a history of Neighborhood Improvement Services/Code Enforcement programs and staffing. He noted the City currently had a half time secretary half time cost recovery, a manager and three (3) contract code enforcement officers however the City Council would be considering converting those positions to City employees at their next meeting. A slide show of code enforcement cases was shown and described, which included squatters, substandard housing, illegal dumping, environmental crimes, consumer protection, homeless issues, municipal affairs and public nuisances.

In response to Craig Lawrence, Deputy Director of Community Development Deputy Graham stated with more resources they would be able address substandard housing enforcement and outreach efforts.

In response to an audience, Deputy Director of Community Development Graham stated they may be replacing the porta-potty at the homeless encampment adjacent to the river and residents of the encampment migrated out of the area during the day to use facilities throughout the City. He noted the house on the barge at the end of "A" Street was parked on the water legally; however they were working with the owner of the barge who had not received payments, to have it repossessed. He reported there were approximately five hundred (500) homeless in Antioch.

Deputy Director of Community Development Graham reviewed the City's process for dealing with violations which included notice of violation to the property owner followed by inspections and possible citations and liens against the property. He clarified the property owner of record for an abandoned property was determined through contact with the County Assessor's office and once they were contacted they attempted to educate them that the property holds the lien and get permission for the City to abate the property. He stated the ordinance was written to indicate the bank was considered the property owner. Additionally, he reviewed the appeal process for administrative citations.

In response to the audience, Deputy Director of Community Development Graham stated the municipal code was available on the City's website and stated they prioritize their caseload daily.

Commissioner Gadams stated a main concern at Neighborhood Watch meetings was code enforcement and residents who felt they received no service.

Deputy Director of Community Development Graham stated that for years the City did not have staffing to address neighborhood nuisances and currently they have to prioritize calls for service

Commissioner Gadams stated the lack of code enforcement in neighborhoods had a dramatic impact on property values and regular service would make a positive impact.

In response to an audience member, Deputy Director of Community Development Graham reported that during a recent outreach to the homeless community, nine (9) people were placed in temporary housing.

In response to a member of the audience, Deputy Director of Community Development Graham stated he anticipated that it would take approximately ten (10) months to hire new code enforcement employees which would be done one at a time to provide continuity in coverage. He noted the use of volunteers was complicated due to the amount of training and certification needed however he would like to get back to using volunteers for follow up inspections. He clarified the Fire Department had their own contractor perform board up services in the event of a fire and they dealt with vacant properties and burglaries when owners were absent.

Chairperson Cook announced the following events.

8. FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS

- a. January 21, 2015 – Crime Prevention Commission Meeting will be on a WEDNESDAY because of the MLK Holiday
- b. January 3, 2015 – Neighborhood Clean-up - TBD

Douglas Dunn announced the Board of Supervisors would be voting on Laura's law on January 13, 2015 and anyone seeking additional information could contact him.

Chairperson Cook wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to a special meeting scheduled on January 21, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

