



MINUTES
OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room –second floor
10890 San Pablo Avenue

Call to Order

Committee Chair Nick Arzio called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Chair Nick Arzio, Vice-Chair Marty Takimoto, Eugene Go, Linda Jolivet
Members not in Attendance: Mollie Hazen, Bruce Yow and pending member Nathan DeClue
City Council/Staff in Attendance: Cpl. Brian Elder
Guests/Members of the Public: Cordell Hindler

1. Approval of Minutes:

Chair Arzio made a motion to remove the description of the amendments made to the meeting minutes and to have the minutes only reflect that the final version is an amended version.
(No member seconded the motion).

The misspelling of a committee member first name in the roll call portion of the minutes from the September meeting was corrected.

Moved and carried (Jolivet/Go) to adopt the amended version of the September 14, 2016, meeting minutes.

Aye: Vice-Chair Takimoto, Member Go and Member Jolivet.

Nay: Chair Arzio

Abstentions: None

2. Council / Staff Liaison Reports:

Cpl. Elder provided an update on the homicide that occurred at the end of October. He indicated that there is no current or continued risk to the public and that the Police Department is continuing its investigation. Cpl. Elder did indicate that there has been an exhaustive search for video surveillance camera footage in and around the area and that if anyone has or knows someone in the area who has a home surveillance camera system to contact the Police Department.

Cpl. Elder talked about a new crime trend dubbed “follow home robberies” where victims are being followed home from the bank after withdrawing large quantities of money. The victims are then approached and their purse is taken from them. Be aware of people of loitering in and around banks and ATM’s that don’t appear to be in the area for any legitimate reason. The Police

Department has identified suspects in these recent crimes and is moving towards making an arrest.

The southern portion of town has had a spike in vehicle burglaries and theft from unlocked automobiles. Suspects have been identified in these cases as well, however, this is an opportunity to again remind everyone to lock their car doors and windows and remove valuables from the vehicle.

3. Comments from the Public:

Cordell Hindler provided the committee with several handouts which had tips on how to form a Neighborhood Watch program and fliers for an event at the local auditorium.

Member Jolivet asked about if the Police Department had crime prevention/safety tip tri-fold pamphlets. Member Jolivet noted that she would bring an example of a pamphlet she received at church recently. Cpl. Elder indicated that there are generic information pamphlets available but noted that seasonal/current event type information is much more valuable and is usually disseminated electronically.

4. Discussion of Crime Prevention Committee Activities:

- a) Illegal dumping subcommittee updates (Chair- Arzio/ Vice-Chair Takimoto).
 - Chair Arzio noted that the dumping issues continue in El Cerrito and the committee does not have the power or authority to appropriately deal with the root causes of dumping. Chair Arzio initially moved to have the Illegal dumping subcommittee removed from as a future agenda item (Motion was withdrawn). Chair Arzio instead suggested that instead the focus of the subcommittee should be to make a recommendation to the City Council to renegotiate the city contract with East Bay Sanitary to now include 1 free bulky trash item pick-up annually per residence (City of Richmond currently has this service). Chair Arzio pointed out that if the residents had the opportunity to have their bulky trash items picked up by East Bay Sanitary they may be less inclined to dump the unwanted items illegally.

Moved and carried (Jolivet/Takimoto) to draft a recommendation to the City Council to renegotiate the City's contract with East Bay Sanitary to now include the free pickup of one bulky trash item. The draft recommendation will then need to be approved by the committee before being forwarded.

Aye: Chair Arzio, Vice-Chair Takimoto, Member Go and Member Jolivet.

Nay: None

Abstentions: None

- b) Neighborhood Watch outreach subcommittee updates (Chair-Arzio/ Member Go).
 - Chair Arzio and Vice-Chair Takimoto attended the Schmidt Lane Neighborhood Watch meeting. The meeting had updates from members of the Police Department, members of the community outreach team from PG&E and a presentation by Vice-Chair Takimoto. Some topics of discussion were the legalization of marijuana, tips for deterring theft from vehicles and the value of residential burglary alarms. Vice-Chair Takimoto also outlined the plan for the upcoming Holiday Safety Forum.

- c) CPC charter review and recommendation subcommittee update (Takimoto/Jolivet).

There was no need for discussion on this topic.

- d) CPC recruitment event subcommittee updates (Arzio/Go)
 - The CPC recruitment event was successful and the entire \$150 budget was utilized for food and refreshments. There were between 20-30 people who attended the event and one individual noted that they would be starting a new Neighborhood Watch group. The committee also talked about other ways to advertise future CPC activities and events.
- e) Police monitoring activities at and around the adult bookstore (Jolivet).
 - Member Jolivet indicated that she has been asked on several occasions about the adult book store located near Moeser Lane/San Pablo Avenue and criminal activity that is centered near the business. Cpl. Elder explained that the adult book store and adjacent motel are both within the city limit of Richmond. Cpl. Elder explained how crime is investigated based on jurisdiction and encouraged anyone who observes criminal activity to call the police.
- f) CPC home security seminar subcommittee (Takimoto/Jolivet/Hazen)
 - Vice-Chair Takimoto provided an update on the development of the Holiday Safety Forum scheduled for December 8th. The subcommittee has confirmed a guest speaker from Reed Brothers Security in Oakland. There will also be another speaker from the Police Department that will cover holiday specific tips for crime prevention. Vice-Chair Takimoto asked that the remainder of the CPC promotional items be made available for the event. Cpl. Elder noted that there are very few CPC related promotional items left and this would be a good opportunity to order new merchandise. Vice-Chair Takimoto and Cpl. Elder also talked about ways that the event can be promoted to increase attendance.

Moved and carried (Takimoto/Go) to empower the subcommittee to provide the CPC liaison with a request for the purchase of up to \$500 for promotional give away items for use at future events.

The motion was then amended to allow the subcommittee to make the recommendation for purchase without need of further approval from the committee.

Aye: Chair Arzio, Vice-Chair Takimoto, Member Go and Member Jolivet.

Nay: None

Abstentions: None

5. Membership:

Cpl. Elder informed the committee that prospective member Nathan DeClue has been approved by City Council but has not yet completed the background process required for members of the CPC. Cpl. Elder has emailed the required documents to Mr. DeClue and has not yet heard back from him.

6. Communication Report (Including Neighborhood Watch / Home Security Report):

Cpl. Elder spoke with Member Go about the continued issues with the CPC voice mail box being inaccessible from an outside line. Vice-Chair Takimoto volunteered to provide his personal number for the point of contact for the Holiday Safety Forum point of contact. Cpl. Elder also suggested that members of the public can contact him at his desk line regarding the CPC which he would then forward to the members of the committee.

7. Adjournment:

Moved and carried; adjourned at 8:19 PM. Unanimous.