



Police Department

Staff Liaison

Sergeant Aaron Leone

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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Crime Prevention Committee

September 11th, 2023 7:00 PM

Zoom meeting

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 PM CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Gager called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

7:00 PM CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair George Gager, Vice Chair Cobb, Members: Jon Bashor was present. Members Dolgonas and Guest had excused absences from this meeting.

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

An email from Cordell Hindler was read by Sergeant Leone to the CPC members.

3. **COUNCIL AND STAFF LIASON REPORTS**

Council Member Quinto welcomed Member Jon Bashor to the CPC. He also spoke of the shooting incident that had occurred in his neighborhood about three weeks prior. He spoke about why the city invested in the Flock camera system. Council Member Quinto spoke about crime trends that are occurring in the SF Bay Area that are not occurring in other parts of the state. He believes politics are getting in the way of public safety. He explained that he refused to defund the police in El Cerrito. He expressed his belief that the CPC is important to get the message of public safety out to the community. He explained he was concerned about public safety in the public schools in El Cerrito. He explained that the City of El Cerrito has a 40% budget reserve and has placed nine Million Dollars in an emergency fund in case of an emergency. Council Member told the group that out of the 19 cities in Contra Costa County El Cerrito has one of the highest crime rates for property crime. He also told the group that the city council seats are non-partisan. Council Member Quinto informed the committee that Marshall's will be moving their current store in El Cerrito to the El Cerrito Plaza in the old Bed, Bath, and Beyond space.

Sergeant Leone updated the group on a recent case involving the Flock camera system where two stolen vehicles were recovered, and two suspects were arrested at the same time when the two stolen vehicles entered the City of El Cerrito and stopped at a restaurant.

Sergeant Leone informed the committee from January 1, 2023 – August 7, 2023, there had been 119 vehicles stolen in El Cerrito.

Sergeant Leone updated the committee that the surveillance system that had been planned along the Bart path had been cancelled due to the city financial crises. The project may resume as the city recovers financially.

Sergeant Leone provided some crime statistics for crimes that occurred on or near the Bart path. From January 1, 2022 to May 2023 there were ten incidents that happened along the Bart path. He explained that one of those incidents was a DUI arrest that happened on Manila Avenue at the Bart path so really didn't have anything to do with the Bart path. He described that this low number of incidents on the Bart path was a huge reduction from years past.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review and approve minutes from August 7th, 2023 meeting.

- Motion to approve minutes: made by Member Jon Bashor, seconded by Member William Cobb.
- Ayes: Chair George Gager, Vice Chair William Cobb, and Member Jon Bashor.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None

5. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE


Chair George Gager spoke about contacting the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to see if they have any resources that they can provide the City of El Cerrito. He will bring any information he finds out back to the committee for their input.

Member Jon Bashor spoke about the El Cerrito Historic Society having a photo contest and he explained that he would like some historic photographs from the El Cerrito Police Department. He explained that the photographs must have been taken in the City of El Cerrito prior to 1973.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Bashor said he spoke to Member Dolgonas after the August meeting, and he had suggested the committee discuss the mission of the Crime Prevention Committee. He suggested this topic be added to the agenda for the October meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

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George Gager, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Crime Prevention Committee meeting of 9-11-23 as approved by the Crime Prevention Committee.

DocuSigned by:

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Detective Sergeant Aaron Leone, Staff Liaison