

**LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 9, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vierra called the meeting of the Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission to order at 10:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commission Members: Brown, Chelette, Gaupel, Pickens, Smith, Chairman Vierra

Absent: Vice-Chairman Fuller

Staff

Members: Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, Public Safety Manager, Assistant City Clerk

Additional

Attendees: Deputy District Attorney Steven Frankland, California Highway Patrol Captain Steve Urrea, Los Angeles County Sheriff Captain Bob Jonsen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission Chelette

PRESENTATIONS

The Public Safety Manager gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Public Safety Office and introduced the Public Safety staff; Jim Kobolt, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, discussed the Antelope Valley Community Youth Court program and his work with data/statistical analysis; Marleen Navarro, Crime Prevention Officer, discussed her responsibilities regarding parking enforcement, juvenile restitution and graffiti; Amy Vasquez, Crime Prevention Officer, discussed her responsibilities with the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch programs and LanCap training; Jennifer Priscaro, Community Service Officer, discussed her responsibilities regarding coordinating events in which the Public Safety office participates, Ann Marie Mercer, Crime Prevention Officer, discussed her responsibilities regarding the Antelope Valley Community Youth Court, data entry for statistical analysis as it relates to the Criminal Justice Commission meeting crime statistics and her role in the Barking Dog program; Christina Ashley, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, discussed her role in the Antelope Valley Community Youth Court regarding juror training and assisting the jury during deliberations.

Chairman Vierra commended the Public Safety staff for all they do.

APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION CONSENT CALENDAR

CC 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 14, 2012

On a motion by Commissioner Chelette and seconded by Commissioner Brown the Commission approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote: 6-0-0-1; AYES: Brown, Chelette, Gaupel, Pickens, Smith, Vierra
NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Fuller

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1. Discussion of recommendation to the City Council regarding AB 109 and support of SB 1150

The Public Safety Manager stated since the last meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission in March, the Department of Probation has committed to establish a re-entry 'hub' office in the Antelope Valley.

Commissioner Gaupel stated SB 1150 was defeated and at this point discussion of this subject is a mute point.

COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES

1. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided crime statistics for April 8, 2012 through May 5, 2012 and provided the weekly crime event average and median for the same time period. Information regarding total arrests and part 1 arrests and the correlation to the number of individuals on probation and parole for May 2011 - December 2011 and for May 2011 – April 2012 was given. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided information for the most active reporting districts for part 1 crimes for April 8, 2012 through May 5, 2012. Crime trend information for specific part one crimes for a 52 week time period was given, a spatial trend analysis comparing March 2012 to April 2012 was discussed, and a part-one crime forecast for May was discussed. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided information regarding calls for service for May 8, 2011 to May 5, 2012 for the Lancaster Sheriff's Department and a list of the top ten repeat calls for service for the period of March 11, 2012 to April 7, 2012 was discussed.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Discussion regarding parolees/probationers committing new crimes vs. committing parole violations and the effect this group of people has on part I crimes took place; parolee information is taken from different Department of Justice and Parole databases and is counted in the parole data provided, criminal history comes from a different Department of Justice database.

2. ARREST STATISTICS

Lt. Raulston presented information on arrest statistics for the previous year – Lancaster has the highest arrest statistics in the County; the Department is redeploying cars and utilizing foot and bicycle patrol in retail centers, saturation operations are taking place in retail centers. A recent operation resulted in 24 arrests during one shift; partnering with OSS and GET units and using maps provided by the Senior Criminal Justice Analyst to concentrate on those areas in which crimes are taking place.

Sgt. Dawson – provided an update on the Coffee with a Deputy/Captain program; will be having a presentation at the Lancaster Senior Center in combination with Coffee with a Deputy/Captain; recently held an Explorer competition; Community Academy will be graduating approximately 40 participants; a future public service campaign will be focused on being proactive with juveniles to make them aware of the ramifications of their decisions; idea is to make them aware of the consequences of their actions before they start to commit crimes.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Clarification regarding the number of arrests comparing Lancaster and Palmdale – the number of arrests doesn't mean a city that doesn't have as many arrests isn't safer – it means the opposite – Lancaster is aggressive in arresting people who commit crimes; more arrests translates to safer community; collection of data isn't just for information sake – it's used to assign deputies to those areas that show crimes taking place; lower occurrence of crimes is due to actions of the Deputies.

3. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL UPDATE

Captain Steve Urrea provided year to date fatality statistics, DUI arrest and accident statistics and provided statistics for the number of collisions compared to last year. Recently the Highway Patrol, along with other public safety entities, assisted Eastside High School and Highland School with the 'Every 15 Minute Program.' The California Highway Patrol is continuing their education programs with a 'Start Smart' Program targeted at youth who will be starting to drive.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Discussion took place regarding a recent article about DUI driver who killed someone and did not receive jail time; local District Attorney's Office is actively working with the CHP in enforcing strict sentencing.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE

Deputy District Attorney Steven Frankland provided statistics for felony and misdemeanor complaints filed for the Antelope Valley for the first quarter for 2012; data shows a downward trend of number of felony complaints filed.

5. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

This item not discussed

6. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

This item not discussed

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Addressing the Commission at this time:

David Paul – discussed Lancaster Human Relations Tapestry Commission and discussed a Human Accountability Project.

Nicole – discussed recent fires, property taxes, parent notification, equal access, cameras in the courtroom.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Vierra adjourned the Criminal Justice Commission meeting at 11:35 a.m. and stated the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission would take place on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

BRITT AVRIT
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
COMMISSION SECRETARY

DAVID VIERRA
CHAIRMAN

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES
LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

I, _____, _____ of the City of Lancaster, CA, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission minutes, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CA on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)
