

**LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
February 8, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Fuller called the meeting of the Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission to order at 10:07 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commission Members: Brown, Chelette, Gaupel, Harris, Vice-Chairman Fuller

Absent: Commission Member Greer, Chairman Vierra

**Staff**

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

**Additional**

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

**INVOCATION**

Reverend Leo Dechant, Blessed Junipero Serra Parish

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Harris

At this time Vice Chairman Fuller announced the Commission will hear the Crime Statistic Update report prior to the New Business items due to the relation of the statistics to item NB 1.

**APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CC 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 11, 2012**

On a motion by Commissioner Chelette and seconded by Commissioner Gaupel the Commission approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote: 5-0-0-2; AYES: Brown, Chelette, Fuller, Gaupel, Harris NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Greer, Vierra

**COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES**

**1. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE**

The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided the weekly crime event average and median for January 8, 2012 through February 4, 2012 and provided the most active reporting districts for part 1 crimes for the same period. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst stated this reporting period includes specific information related to those people arrested in the City; this information includes if the individual is on probation, on parole and if that person has a prior criminal record. The data for the measurement period of May 1 – December 31, 2011 was correlated to the number of total arrests to show if those 3 characteristics are related; the data shows 36% of the arrests made include those who have a prior

criminal history, 22% of the total arrests made include those who are on probation, 10% of total arrests are those people who are on parole.

Crime trend information for specific part one crimes for a 52 week time period was given, a spatial trend analysis comparing December 2011 to January 2012 was discussed, and a part-one crime forecast for February was discussed. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided information regarding calls for service for February 6, 2011 to February 4, 2012 for the Lancaster Sheriff's Department and a list of the top ten repeat calls for service for the period of January 8, 2012 to February 4, 2012 was discussed.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

At this time the data does not show if those individuals who are parolees and probationers have been arrested for new crimes or for parole/probation violations; may be able to work with the Lancaster Sheriff Station to track post release cases; the relation of the increase in monthly crime statistics to the decrease in the yearly crime rate was discussed and relates to the population numbers provided in May 2011 by the United States Census Bureau; the base line for crime was established based on the population figures provided and based on long term statistics; important that the City continues to operate under that trend line; Captain Jonsen clarified crime rate and net crime; important for the public to know net crime is continually reduced, Lancaster had much fewer crimes in 2011 as compared to 2012; the net number is what people should be concerned with; given the fluctuation of the crime rate based on population, it's impressive that the City has had fewer actual crimes occur; robbery is the only crime that resulted in an increase. Important to understand the population figures must be reported correctly, if not the numbers will not be accurate. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst discussed crime rate versus crime frequency and the method used to determine this information; the City established a goal of 300 crimes per 10,000 people and surpassed that goal and hit 260. Clarification regarding the increase of population and the total number of crimes is down; the information provided by the Senior Criminal Justice Analyst is important to develop strategic response to crime occurrences; Vice Chairman Fuller complimented the Senior Criminal Justice Analyst on the analysis done for the Commission. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst stated the City of Lancaster is the only contract city in Los Angeles County that can answer these questions related to crime; all other cities turn to elsewhere for the data; the City understands from a management perspective how to address crime so appropriate resources can be put in place.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **NB 1. Discussion of ramifications of AB109 and consideration of recommendation to the City Council regarding this subject**

Commissioner Gaupel provided the background for this item:

In January 2010 non violent, non serious and non sexual (non-non-non)offenders were taken off parole and were released without conditions of parole according to AB109; 40,000 parolees in LA County; 1800 in the Antelope Valley; the trend that's beginning to occur is individuals will commit a crime, for example burglary, and may be sentenced to 180 days for the new felony, that person may serve 20 days and be released without parole because it's considered a non-non-non offense. People now on parole are looking to commit a crime because if they are caught and sent to jail, the offender will not be charged as if he is a parolee; when individuals are released they are released without parole and the reason they were on parole in the first place is eliminated; there are approximately 177 low level and high level sex offenders on parole; a low level sex offender receives 5 years parole and must wear GPS; this parolee can go burglarize a business, be sentenced and do time, and after the jail time is completed for the

burglary offense he will be off parole after a year and will not have to wear GPS; appears to provide an incentive for sex offenders to commit crimes to get off parole;

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Must do something as a City, as elected officials to amend AB109; it is estimated, by 2014, approximately 32,000 individuals will be on post release parole; the State wants us to believe these people are nonviolent. The original bill was written so that parolees would be released based on their most recent offense and it was changed to include the individual's history; a precedence has been set and perhaps if a change was made prior to the Assembly Bill's adoption, perhaps a change can be encouraged again.

It was suggested that the Criminal Justice Commission make a recommendation to the City Council to have this policy changed. Current problem with AB109 is people are not getting jail time, currently in Fresno County the jails are full and are not taking any parole-violators - a sex offender can be on drugs and living with a child and that person will not be charged with a parole violation; if the jails fill up in Los Angeles County, it could happen here where no time is going to be given.

The Deputy District Attorney stated the State Legislature has deemed what is considered a non-violent crime. For example a four-time DUI defendant is considered non-serious and non-violent and traditionally this type of offender would be put in state prison, now these individuals are put on probation in order to provide more supervision; these should be considered serious offenses as should sale of narcotics; upon conviction, these people should be placed in State prison. Large problem in this area is sex offenders; the subcommittee, after visiting with the City of Ontario Police Department, learned post-release sex offenders are on GPS and Los Angeles County is not doing that and we need to find out why.

Further discussion took place about formulating a specific recommendation to the City Council; Commissioners will work together and with the District Attorney's Office to put together specific recommendations for discussion so that these recommendations can be given to the City Council who can then take them to Assemblymen and Senators. Commissioner Gaupel would like to get input from other organizations such as the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Department as well.

This item was continued to the next Criminal Justice Commission meeting.

## **NB 2. Discussion of Ordinance Relating to Registered Sex Offenders**

The Public Safety Manager provided the background for this item:

The Public Safety Manager, Commissioner Chelette and Commissioner Gaupel recently met with Officer Ramirez in the Ontario Police Department to discuss registered sex offenders and their actions related to Halloween and other holiday issues and to discuss adopting similar policies; refreshing to meeting with Officer Ramirez, their ordinance has been well thought out; the research was provided to the Commissioners; they are willing to work with us to move forward. Many aspects of their Ordinance have already been challenged, if we enact this ordinance, it immediately affects any sex offender in the City as long as the offender is notified; finding that public libraries are being used to view pornography on public computers, the City can use this ordinance to keep sex offenders from attending activities that are attended mostly by children or that draw children to them; many cities have adopted this type of ordinance; keeps sex offenders out of parks, keeps them from being Santa Claus.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Having a business license to cover individuals who act as a character at an event, the license would require the applicant to be DOJ checked and verify they are not a sex offender; the person would have to be licensed and finger printed in order to act as a character or dress up as a character at events.

Additional discussion took place regarding putting together a recommendation to the City Council for discussion at a future meeting; the information will be given to the City Attorney, Captain Jonsen and the Deputy District Attorney first. Officer Ramirez offered to give a presentation; the Public Safety Manager will contact her to see if she is available to present in March; will work to possibly create a recommendation to discuss at the May Criminal Justice Commission meeting.

This item was continued to the next Criminal Justice Commission meeting.

## **COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES**

### **2. ARREST STATISTICS**

Lt. Raulston presented information on recent investigations of theft rings; the Burglary Suppression Team arrested several suspects, including gang members, and recovered property stolen locally and some property stolen from San Bernardino; another local group of thieves were breaking into the local exterior Walmart battery storage, San Bernardino Walmart's and as far north as Bakersfield; local detectives broke the case and arrested 3 suspects with a truck load of batteries; Lancaster 's Most Wanted information provided to the media has resulted in 61 arrests out of the 89 suspects showcased last year.

### **3. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL UPDATE**

Captain Steve Urrea provided January citation statistics and statistics for the number of DUI arrests and fatalities. Highland High School is preparing an "Every 15 Minutes" program scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>; the program refers to the statistic that every 15 minutes there is a DUI collision somewhere in the United States; the program goes through the process of a DUI collision involving a fatality; emergency personnel arrives at a staged scene and victims are taken by ambulance to the hospital – parents are notified, the teen victims have no contact with anyone for 24 hours, the parents write an obituary which is read at an assembly the following day; the program is handled by the kids and is filmed and the video is shown at an assembly on April 12<sup>th</sup>. CHP Lieutenant Rob Lund will be taking Captain Urrea's place at the next CJC meeting and will provide more specific information for this event; may be able to bring the video at a future date to show those who are unable to attend the event at Highland High School.

### **4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE**

Deputy District Attorney Steven Frankland provided statistics for felony and misdemeanor complaints filed for the Antelope Valley for January 2012.

Due to the Mayor's State of the City address, the Commission decided to continue the remaining items to the March Criminal Justice Commission Meeting.

### **5. REPORT ON NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT PROGRAM**

This item not discussed

**6. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

This item not discussed

**7. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**

This item not discussed

**PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairman Fuller adjourned the Criminal Justice Commission meeting at 11:18 a.m. and stated the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission would take place on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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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)

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