

**LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 14, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Commission Members: Brown, Chelette, Smith, Vice-Chairman Fuller, Chairman Vierra

Absent: Commissioner Pickens, Valaskantjis

Staff

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

Additional

Attendees: Vice Mayor Crist, California Highway Patrol Commander Gretchen Jacobs, Head Deputy District Attorney John Morris, Los Angeles County Sheriff Captain Pat Nelson, CJC Liaison Rob Parris

INVOCATION

No invocation given

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Fuller

APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION CONSENT CALENDAR

CC 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 10, 2013

On a motion by Vice Chairman Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Brown the Commission approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote: 5-0-0-2; AYES: Brown, Chelette, Fuller, Smith, Vierra NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Pickens, Valaskantjis

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the City of Lancaster's Ordinance relating to fireworks

Commissioner Smith discussed his reasons for requesting that the Commission look at the City of Lancaster's current Ordinance relating to fireworks. The Public Safety Manager stated the difference between different cities' fireworks ordinances pertains to penalties. Commissioner Smith stated he would like the Commission to look at changing the fines currently in place because the newspaper reported the fines for Lancaster and Palmdale and there is a large difference; he believes a higher fine may deter the use of fireworks in Lancaster.

The Public Safety Manager was given direction to look at different cities in Los Angeles County and to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department and the California Highway Patrol regarding making changes to the current Ordinance.

Discussion among the Commission included the number of people attending the fireworks event at the fairgrounds; the presence of Los Angeles County Sheriff Department was helpful; staff and deputies were helping people and keeping people out of trouble.

COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES

1. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided crime and arrest statistics for June 30, 2013 through August 3, 2013 and provided the weekly crime event average and median for July and August. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided total Part 1 Crime Counts by month which compared 2012 and 2013 and provided information for the most active reporting districts for part-one crimes for June 30, 2013 through August 3, 2013. Crime trend information for specific part-one crimes for a 52 week time period was given and a spatial trend analysis comparing July 2013 to June 2013 was discussed. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided a list of the top ten repeat calls for service for the period of June 30, 2013 through August 3, 2013 and discussed a part-one crime forecast for August.

2. ARREST STATISTICS –

Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy Miguel Ruiz stated the statistics for July were steady for specialized units. Deputy Ruiz provided statistics regarding the T.O.P./CO.R.E. Teams including information for warrants issued and parolees arrested; one notable arrest for these teams involved an individual seen running into a home with a firearm. The team found one person in the home with 4 pounds of methamphetamine, scales, narcotics, cash, and a rifle; a recent undercover anti-theft operation at Wal-Mart on valley central way resulted in significant arrests. Statistics for the Burglary Suppression Team were given; the statistics show a significant increase in cash recovered compared to last month; noteworthy arrests came as a result of warrants served at 3 locations - 5 firearms, a large amount of cash, 3 juveniles and 2 adults were arrested and a vehicle stolen from the City of Hawthorne was recovered. Statistics for the LAN-CAP Team were provided. Deputy Ruiz discussed the increase in felony arrests for this team and stated parolee compliance checks resulted in the recovery of more than 40 grams of heroin and methamphetamine, the arrest of 4 adults – 2 active parolees as well as local gang member. Statistics for the NARCO Team were also given; statistics show an increase in the amount of narcotics recovered.

2. ARREST STATISTICS CONTINUED...

Additionally Deputy Ruiz discussed the recent “Guns and Hoses” softball games; Los Angeles County Fire Department was unable to field a team, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department beat the California Highway Patrol in game one and went on to beat the California Department of Corrections in game two.

3. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL UPDATE

California Highway Patrol Commander Gretchen Jacobs provided statistics comparing last month to this month for fatal collisions, DUI collisions, DUI arrests, citations and motorist services. The California Highway Patrol will be accepting applications September 12th -14th. Commander Jacobs provided the website for the applications and the phone number to call with questions regarding the upcoming recruitment. August is Purple Ribbon Month which refers to leaving children in cars; look before you lock and do not leave children in the car.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included the locations/reasons for the fatal accidents – Angeles Forest Highway, the 14 Freeway and Avenue T, there is no one specific indicator for the cause of the accidents; Commissioner Chelette thanked the CHP for their involvement in a recent incident he had when he was stranded on the freeway.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE

Head Deputy District Attorney John Morris from the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office stated after 3 months of decline of felony cases filed, July shows an increase in criminal cases filed comparing July, 2012 to 2013; the District Attorney’s Office is continuing to aggressively prosecute residential burglaries in the Antelope Valley; any sentence for this crime for less than a state prison sentence requires his approval; he believes the community should feel safe in leaving their home without it being burglarized.

5. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE/ PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

The Public Safety Manager provided an update regarding the Business Watch Program; Area 1 for the BIG program has been completed; this area identified 88 businesses which share quality of life issues and larceny and theft prevention issues; – letters have been sent to businesses in Area 2 – Valley Central Way on Avenue I to Avenue J; many crime issues in the city are related to these 2 areas. The recent National Night Out event went well and was well attended at American Heroes Park; this event was incorporated with the farmer’s market and the concert series on The BLVD; great location; area 3 Neighborhood Watch meeting is taking place on 8-15-13; the City’s 90 days of fun is beginning soon beginning with the Celebrate America event. The Public Safety Office continues to work with the court regarding graffiti vandalism, issue revolves around repayment and lack of enforcement; patrol arrests keeps our area at the top regarding top stations for arrests; 459 parole compliance checks since the beginning of the year – proactive approach for the station; Burglary Team has a high solvency rate lots of work involved; LAN-CAP Team works nights and weekends which results in quick arrests; a mention of an individual at the National Night Out event to a Deputy resulted in a person in custody very quickly.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included restitution is required of parents or juveniles depending on the court order; development of penalty of nonpayment needs to be implemented; parents need to be held responsible for their children.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

David Paul – stated he enjoys attending meetings and learns what is happening in the city; discussed his work in a child abuse shelter and a recent incident regarding anonymous tip made against him; requested statistics for how many false reports are filed and how often \$1000 civil fine is imposed.

Ashley Fogle – discussed an incident involving she had with her child at the AV Women and Infant Pavilion and requested an investigation.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Fuller stated the Antelope Valley Fair begins August 16th and the Fair Parade is August 17th.

Commissioner Chelette complimented the City and the Sheriff’s Department for the safe environment at the Farmer’s Market.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Vierra adjourned the Criminal Justice Commission meeting at 10:59 a.m. and stated the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission would take place on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



BRITT AVRIT
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
COMMISSION SECRETARY


FOR 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)
