

LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 10, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vierra called the meeting of the Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission to order at 10:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioners Brown, Pickens

Staff

Members: City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, 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

Assistant Pastor Jon Guy, Lancaster Baptist Church

LEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Vierra

PRESENTATIONS

1. Jermaine Lewis from Antelope Valley Alcohol Prevention Coalition (AVAPC) gave an overview of the coalition; the coalition is comprised of local stakeholders and the primary goal of this coalition is to prevent and reduce underage drinking; objectives include reducing the ease in which these individuals obtain alcohol; implement community awareness through public awareness campaigns and by working with the LA County Sheriff Department. The coalition is looking to enact a social-host ordinance which holds people responsible for furnishing alcohol to minors in a social environment; Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara and Laguna Hills have this type of ordinance in place and all 10 Ventura county cities have enacted a local social host ordinance; cities report reduction in nuisance calls and reduction in crime rate; the coalition would like to work with the city and law makers and welcomes them to be part of the coalition.

Discussion included – possible objections to the ordinance; current law enforcement procedure was discussed; this type of ordinance could be an additional tool for the LA County Sheriff Department “party cars” to use when enforcing parties; discussion of “RAVE” parties took place; beneficial to the community when parents, homeowners and party hosts are aware of the consequences; awareness is key to success; coalition would be responsible for community awareness; strategies the coalition have planned were discussed and discussion of the ordinances currently in place for the other cities was had. The ordinances are similar, differences relate to civil penalties and fines. The Commission requested Mr. Lewis provide them with copies of the ordinances already in place.

2. Senior Criminal Justice Analyst Jim Kobolt provided an overview of the Antelope Valley Community Youth Court program; Ann Marie Mercer oversees the day to day process of the program; Christina Ashley refers cases from the LA Sheriff's Department and handles jury training. The program was established to assist law enforcement with reducing the number of juveniles in the court system. A benefit of peer youth courts is the reduction of youth crime and recidivism. The offender must acknowledge the harm and take responsibility in order to be involved in the program; the vision of the program was discussed; plan follows National Youth Court guidelines. Mr. Kobolt provided statistics for the Youth Court program. The 'judges' in the program are full-time attorneys, jurors are volunteers including members of the Lancaster Tapestry Commission and other organizations in the community; City of Lancaster interns are used for case workers; the process for the program was provided.

Discussion included the time frame involved for the program and the number of cases completed; recidivism statistics relate to those who have completed the program; most parents are unaware the program exists and many times the parents are unaware their child has received a citation until staff contacts them to offer the program.

Addressing the Commission at this time:

Julius Jackson – former offender, wants to be involved and is willing to help the youth.

APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION CONSENT CALENDAR

CC 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 12, 2013

On a motion by Vice Chairman Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Valaskantjis the Commission approve the Consent Calendar by the following vote: 4-0-1-2; AYES: Chelette, Fuller, Vierra, Valaskantjis NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Smith; ABSENT: Brown, Pickens

COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES

1. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided crime and arrest statistics for June 2, 2013 through June 29, 2013 and provided the weekly crime event average and median for June and July. 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 2, 2013 through June 29, 2013. Crime trend information for specific part-one crimes for a 52 week time period was given and a spatial trend analysis comparing June 2013 to May 2013 was discussed. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided a list of the top ten repeat calls for service for the period of June 2, 2013 through June 29, 2013 and discussed a part-one crime forecast for July.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included; Vice Chairman Fuller requested hard copies of the top 10 calls for service for future meetings.

2. ARREST STATISTICS –

Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy Miguel Ruiz stated from May to June, statistics show a drop in arrests for the specialized teams. Deputy Ruiz provided statistics regarding the T.O.P./CO.R.E. Teams including information for warrants issued and parolees arrested. A recent T.O.P. /C.O.R.E. operation regarding pan handlers and loitering was discussed; statistics for the Burglary Suppression Team were given; local pawn shops helped the team in several investigations. Statistics for the LAN-CAP Team were provided. Deputy Ruiz discussed a recent incident involving surveillance of an apartment building for illegal drugs being sold. This resulted in the arrest of 3 individuals and the recovery of illegal drugs. Statistics for the NARCO Team were also given.

3. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL UPDATE

California Highway Patrol Commander Gretchen Jacobs provided statistics for the July 4th enforcement period for Los Angeles County, Lancaster and the state; statistics regarding fatal collisions, DUI collisions, DUI arrests and total citations issued for June 2013 were also provided. Commander Jacobs also discussed an upcoming Start Smart class being held at the Lancaster CHP station.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included discussion of the July 4th activities held in the area and the success of the handling of traffic related to the event; Los Angeles County Sheriff Department and the California Highway Patrol handled the traffic excellently. Discussion regarding recruitment for the CHP also took place.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE

Head Deputy District Attorney John Morris from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office provided statistics for year to date felony and misdemeanor filings; the statistics show a decrease for the past 3 months compared to 2012.

Discussion among the Commission and Mr. Morris included the impact on the local courthouse related to closure of other courts.

5. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE/ PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

This item was not discussed.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

David Paul – discussed Youth Court Program; partying responsibly and he discussed a recent meeting he attended.

Michelle Egberts – discussed EEOC guidelines and removing arrests from records; discussed employing individuals who are denied employment based on felony arrests.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith requested that the Commission take a look at the Lancaster fireworks ordinance and requested that an item be placed on the August agenda.

Commissioner Chelette commended the Vice Mayor for a letter to the editor he wrote which was published in the Antelope Valley Press and discussed an article in the Antelope Valley Press regarding the possible release of an individual from prison into Los Angeles County. Commissioner Chelette thanked the District Attorney, the California Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department for doing their jobs well and stated they have support for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

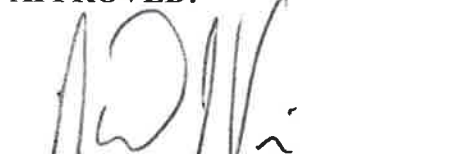
Chairman Vierra adjourned the Criminal Justice Commission meeting at 11:17a.m. and stated the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission would take place on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:



BRITT AVRIT
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
COMMISSION SECRETARY

APPROVED:



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)
