

LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 8, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Fuller called the meeting of the Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission to order at 10:08 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commission Members: Brown, Chelette, Pickens, Valaskantjis, Vice-Chairman Fuller

Absent: Commissioner Smith, Chairman Vierra

Staff

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

Additional

Attendees: Vice Mayor Crist, California Highway Patrol Acting Commander Rob Lund, Assistant Head Deputy Robert Sherwood Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles County Sheriff Captain Pat Nelson.

INVOCATION

Dwayne Clark, Grace Chapel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Pickens

On a motion by Commissioner Chelette and seconded by Commissioner Pickens the Commission voted to move item No. NB 1 to the June 12, 2013 Criminal Justice Commission meeting by the following vote: 5-0-0-2; AYES: Brown, Chelette, Fuller, Pickens, Valaskantjis, NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Smith , Vierra

Commissioner Smith arrived at the meeting at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

California Highway Patrol Officer Gil Hernandez presented information regarding the Every 15 Minutes Program. Officer Hernandez gave a brief history of the program and a video was shown of the program from Lancaster High School which depicted an underage drunk driver with passengers in the vehicle who are involved in an auto accident; the video shows the tremendous impact on all parties involved – drivers, passengers, families, as well as the legal system.

Discussion among the Commission and Officer Hernandez ...

One drink can make a difference, young adults need to understand they don't have to be intoxicated for their driving to be impacted; the Commission congratulated Officer Hernandez and thanked the CHP for the work being done. Discussion took place regarding offering the program at the College; the program is mandatory at high school where the college would be voluntary and Officer Hernandez will check into offering it at the college. Acting Commander Rob Lund invited the Commissioners to attend future presentations of the program. Vice Mayor Crist invited Vice Chairman Fuller and Officer Hernandez to give this presentation at the May 14th City Council meeting.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED...

Eric Ufodu from Los Angeles County Probation Department was unable to attend the meeting; the Commission requested his presentation be moved to the June 12, 2013 meeting.

APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION CONSENT CALENDAR

CC 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10, 2013

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, Fuller, Pickens, Smith, Valaskantjis, NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Vierra

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1. Discussion and possible action regarding reuse of Mira Loma County Complex

This item was moved to the June 12, 2013 Criminal Justice Commission meeting

COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES

1. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided crime and arrest statistics for March 31, 2013 through April 27, 2013 and provided the weekly crime event average and median for April and May. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided information for the most active reporting districts for part-one crimes for March 31, 2013 through April 27, 2013. Crime trend information for specific part-one crimes for a 52 week time period was given and a spatial trend analysis comparing April 2013 to March 2013 was discussed. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided a list of the top ten repeat calls for service for the period of March 31, 2013 through April 27, 2013 and discussed a part-one crime forecast for May.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included; trend for grand theft auto crimes is good ;assault trend is alarming; discussion took place regarding what the increase in assaults can attributed to - possibly weather and the success the Sheriff Department has in certain areas can cause 'bleed' over into other areas.

2. ARREST STATISTICS

Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy Ruiz presented statistical information for April for various teams including the T.O.P. /C.O.R.E. Team, the Burglary Suppression Team and the LAN-CAP team. Deputy Ruiz discussed a recent incident involving the Burglary Suppression Team which resulted in the recovery of 6 firearms, more than 150 items of stolen property including approximately \$100,000 in cash and a shoulder-fired rocket launcher; he also discussed an incident involving the LAN-CAP team which resulted in the recovery of controlled substances and a firearm and an investigation into the suspect being involved in a murder; additionally statistics for the Narcotics Team and the Robbery Suppression Team were discussed. Deputy Ruiz discussed a recent robbery at the store at Arbor Court: the suspects were apprehended within 10 days thanks to the efforts of the Robbery Suppression Team. The Traffic Unit recently conducted a jaywalking operation in an effort to bring awareness to pedestrian traffic.

2. ARREST STATISTICS CONTINUED...

Discussion among the Commission, Deputy Ruiz and staff included discussion of a 'Ramey' warrant vs. a 'regular' arrest warrant – a Ramey warrant is used when a suspect has been identified but no case has been filed, a regular arrest warrant has a case already filed against a suspect; the impact of AB 109 and arrests for individuals who have been released as a result of AB 109 has not been completely determined due to statistics for the partial month of April, Officer Ruiz will provide complete month statistics for the month of May at the June meeting.

3. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL UPDATE

California Highway Patrol Acting Commander Rob Lund introduced Gretchen Jacobs who will be the new CHP Captain for the Antelope Valley area effective July 1, 201. She provided her background and stated she looks forward to working with the Commission.

California Highway Patrol Acting Commander Rob Lund provided statistics for injury and non-injury collisions, DUI collisions and pursuits for April 2013. April was distracted driver month and Antelope Valley area statistics related to distracted drivers and the citations issued were provided; County wide statistics for distracted driver stops and citations were also provided. Additionally statistics for felony and misdemeanor DUI arrests were provided.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included the types of distractions, other than cell phone use, for which drivers were stopped. These included distractions such as eating, drinking, reading and applying make-up while driving.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE

Assistant Head Deputy Robert Sherwood from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office provided year to date statistics for Lancaster, Palmdale, Littlerock, and Lake Los Angeles regarding felony cases, felony "information" cases, misdemeanor cases and jury trials, statistics for these were also compared to last year. Mr. Sherwood discussed significant verdicts for two recent cases – one case involved the armed robbery of a pizza delivery man, the incident was the third strike for the individual and he will spend the rest of his life in jail, another case involved a man convicted of rape and murder and will also spend the rest of his life in jail.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included discussion of the weapons buy-back program. Captain Nelson stated this is typically done in the Central Patrol division and he will explore the program and will provide information to the Commission in the future.

5. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE/ PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

The Public Safety Manager discussed an upcoming meeting with the first Business Improvement Group (BIG); the Public Safety Office is working closely with other departments for upcoming events; the Poppy Festival was a huge success; a town hall meeting recently held at the Mariposa Desert View neighborhood resulted in making the Sheriff's Department aware of specific issues. Public Safety will be focused on community programs offered to specific areas in the community in the coming months; law enforcement mental health training will begin May 9th; LEAPS program is expanding its uses and is being incorporated into law enforcement strategies; Captain Nelson was involved in a recent case which was captured on film.

5. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE/ PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE CONTINUED...

Discussion among the Commission and staff included the benefit to the community regarding mental health training; BIG program moving forward is great news.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Janie Hodge – invited the Commission to the Paving the Way graduation being held May 24th with 24 individuals who will be completing the program.

Michelle Egberts – thanked Steve Frankland for his military service; discussed re-entry; discussed the City’s recent registered sex offender ordinance; discussed her option to sue the city to force the city to speak to her;

Crist clarified for the Commission that the lawsuit regarding the sex offender ordinance has been settled.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

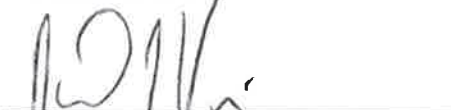
Vice Chairman Fuller adjourned the Criminal Justice Commission meeting at 11:25a.m. and stated the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission would take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

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)
