

**LANCASTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 13, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vierra called the meeting of the Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commission Member: Chelette

Staff

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

Additional

Attendees: Vice Mayor Crist, Los Angeles County Sheriff Captain Pat Nelson, California Highway Patrol Acting Commander Rob Lund, Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney Robert Sherwood, CJC Liaison Rob Parris

INVOCATION

Pastor Danny Gardner, Grace Chapel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Smith

APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Vice Chairman Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Brown the Commission approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote: 5-0-0-1; AYES: Brown, Fuller, Pickens, Smith, Vierra NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Chelette

CC 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2013

COMMISSION/ STAFF UPDATES

1. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

Captain Nelson provided information regarding actions taken by the Lancaster Sheriff's Station to combat part-one crimes; several specialized teams at the Station are used to target specific part one crimes such as burglaries and robberies, these teams focus their efforts based on the crime trend information provided by the Senior Criminal Justice Analyst; patrol crews have been made aware of the trend related to grand theft auto incidents and have been successful in arresting individuals for these crimes.

CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE CONTINUED...

Sergeant Deschamps provided information regarding the overview, goals and statistics for the Burglary Suppression Team. Sgt. Deschamps discussed the Team's efforts in apprehending suspects; these efforts include working with pawn shops and numerous agencies in the community and, in certain instances, with agencies outside the state. Statistics for 2011 and 2012 regarding stolen property, firearms, vehicles, burglary rates and arrests were provided.

The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided crime and arrest statistics for December 30, 2012 through February 2, 2013 and provided the weekly crime event average and median for January and February. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided information for the most active reporting districts for part-one crimes for December 30, 2012 through February 2, 2013. Crime trend information for specific part-one crimes for a 52 week time period was given and a spatial trend analysis comparing January 2013 to December 2012 was discussed. The Senior Criminal Justice Analyst provided a list of the top ten repeat calls for service for the period of January 6, 2013 through February 2, 2013 and discussed a part-one crime forecast for February.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Commissioner Smith requested clarification regarding recovery of goods and arrests made comparing 2011 to 2012. CJC Liaison Rob Parris offered assistance to the Burglary Suppression Team in obtaining necessary tools needed in their daily duties; Mr. Parris stated as the liaison for the Mayor at the Criminal Justice Commission meetings, the City and the Sheriff Boosters will work to obtain needed items for the Burglary Suppression Team. Chairman Vierra suggested Sgt. Deschamps keep the Commission informed of items/tools needed in the future.

2. ARREST STATISTICS

This item not discussed

3. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL UPDATE

California Highway Patrol Acting Commander Rob Lund provided statistics for collisions, DUI arrests and citations issued for the month of January.

At this time Chairman Vierra welcomed Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney Robert Sherwood. Mr. Sherwood stated the District Attorney's office is working on issues related to AB 109 and looks forward to working with the California Highway Patrol, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department and the Criminal Justice Commission in the future.

4. BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE/ PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

The Public Safety Manager discussed current activity in the Public Safety Office which includes working with the Paving the Way Program and their RFP to establish a Day Reporting Center in Lancaster; the Public Safety Office is actively working on disaster preparedness and continues to work on the juvenile graffiti cost model.

The Public Safety Manager stated Commissioner Brown and the Criminal Justice Analyst have been working to develop a program regarding loss prevention programs for businesses in the city which do not actively pursue thefts; the goal is to work on a program that benefits the businesses and the City and is cost effective, uniform and consistent.

Discussion among the Commission and staff included:

Commissioner Brown stated the focus of this program is civic behavior; prosecuting minor crimes can have a general effect on larger crimes, shoplifting has an effect on prices, employee benefits and lost revenue for the City; establishment of a community-wide program to eliminate shoplifting may have a larger effect on shoplifting; is difficult to compel businesses to be aggressive in their loss prevention policies although releasing information to the public about those businesses who do not prosecute shoplifters may have an effect on shoplifting rates. Commissioner Brown stated collaboration between law enforcement and the District Attorney's office to make a joint effort approach to the problem is needed.

Additional discussion included:

Establishing a plan utilizing a test district relating to shoplifting; establish protocols and minimums to bring forward to pursue cases; many suspects know there is no punishment for stealing; suspects are in some instances becoming increasingly violent when they are being detained; specific charges can at times avoid some guidelines of AB 109; suspects may receive a 6 month sentence and may serve 15 days and ultimately receive a citation; no significant deprivation of the suspect's freedom; lack of personal cost can drive statistics.

Mr Sherwood provided information regarding misdemeanor sentences as opposed to felony; generally no time is being served for these types of crimes; victim restitution is being discussed and no mechanism is in place regarding this aspect.

Work programs/Community Service Programs for minor offenses were discussed; suspects are choosing to take the jail time instead of a work program because they know they will most likely be released in days as opposed to the threatened 6 month county jail sentence; failure to pay fines does not affect suspects, no real enforcement.

Discussion took place regarding establishing an administrative citation process to change the Municipal Code that puts a fine in place and a specific way to enforce the collection of fines could be established to include procedures if the fines are not paid. Perpetual thieves are difficult to handle; first time thieves are more susceptible to follow a new program.

BUSINESS WATCH SUBCOMMITTEE/ PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE CONTINUED...

Vice Mayor Crist stated the City Council would like to push big box store owners to become corporate responsible citizens/businesses; if the locations where shoplifting is not addressed become public it will force the business to take action against shoplifters; not currently looking at the penalty aspect, first step is to get community participation to make these businesses responsible; not looking to punish the smaller businesses, looking to have an impact on larger stores.

Additional discussion took place regarding exploring various approaches for each business; value exists to assist the stores as opposed to immediately expose those stores who take no action; worthwhile to establish a model and determine specifics to fit each store; discuss the penalties if the business doesn't participate. A suggestion was made to move forward using a test area, create a model to use city-wide and send a letter/questionnaire to the targeted area's businesses requesting a summary of their loss prevention program; include a statement that non response is not appropriate, the letter/questionnaire should include the reasons behind the program.

Discussion of teams used to address shoplifters and using volunteers to address this issue took place; if target areas are established, the volunteers could be redirected to these areas.

The Public Safety Manager discussed the actions he will take based on the discussion from this meeting and will follow up with the businesses and the City Attorney.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

CJC Liaison Rob Parris stated the original goal of the Criminal Justice Commission was to reduce the number of part-one crimes; Mayor Parris would like the Commission to study part one crime statistics and work with the California Highway Patrol, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department and the District Attorney's Office to establish a goal for part-one crimes for 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

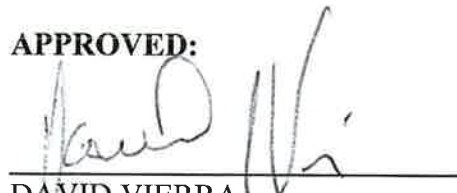
Chairman Vierra adjourned the Criminal Justice Commission meeting at 11:28 a.m. and stated the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission would take place on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

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)
