

**ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL
QUALITY OF LIFE FORUM #4**

**Special Meeting
9:00 A.M.**

**July 14, 2007
El Campanil Theatre**

9:00 A.M. – ROLL CALL

Mayor Freitas called the Special Meeting of the Antioch City Council, QUALITY OF LIFE FORUM meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 14, 2007 at the El Campanil Theatre.

ROLL CALL

Present:

City Councilmembers:	Councilmembers Kalinowski, Davis, Moore, Simonsen and Mayor Freitas
City Staff:	City Manager Jakel Assistant City Manager Hildebrand Police Chief Hyde Management Personnel Minutes Clerk Lawson

A. PRESENTATIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION ON QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES IN THE CITY OF ANTIOCH

Mayor Freitas welcomed the public and provided a brief overview of past forums.

Economic Analyst Brian Nunnally, announced the local merchants were sponsoring a sidewalk sale in the downtown area, and urged the attendees to take time during the breaks or to look over their merchandise. He also made announcements regarding other activities available from noon to 8:00 P.M.

1. History of Quality of Life Sessions / Overview of Accomplishments

Moderator Larry Bienati provided a brief introduction of past forums and stated the key issues and actions taken by the City Council were set forth by those forums. He further explained the agenda and process for the forum.

2. Transportation Issues

Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) Susan Miller provided a power point presentation that explained a Status Report for Highway 4 Widening Projects.

- SR4 Corridor Overall Project Map – Existing and Proposed
- BART/Highway Coordination
- Loveridge Project
 - Incorporation of Wider Median
 - Schedule
 - Funding Plan
- Somersville to SR160 Project
 - Organization Chart
 - Segment Map
 - Somersville Road to Contra Costa Boulevard
 - Modified Design of EB off-ramp at Somersville Road
 - Contra Loma Boulevard to Lone Tree Way
 - Lone Tree Way to SR160
 - Construction Schedule

3. Economic Development – Design Guidelines

Economic Development Director (EDD) Bjerke provided a power point presentation which depicted the City's Design Guidelines that outlined:

- Residential, Commercial Development and job creation 2000-2006
- Business License Trends
- Sales Tax Trends
- Citywide Design Guidelines

4. Antioch Unified School District

- **Update**

Suzanne Pfeiffer, Antioch Unified School District, provided an update and expressed her appreciation to the community and City Council for their support and assistance into the Blue Print for Excellence.

- **Dozier-Libbey Medical High School Update**

Nancie Castro provided a power point presentation that depicted issues relating to the Dozier-Libbey Medical High School that addressed:

- Conceptual drawings
- Facts
- Construction
- Demand
- Curriculum
- Benefits, Career pathways, Partnerships and Progress.

5. Introduction of Housing Authority Director

Mayor Freitas introduced the new Contra Costa County Housing Authority Director, Joseph Villarreal.

Mr. Villarreal introduced himself and stated his enthusiasm in working with the City.

6. Neighborhood Improvement / Rental Inspection Programs

Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator (NIC) Ryan Graham presented a power point presentation that spoke to issues relating to:

- What and Who is the NIP
- Case Flow
- Residential Rental Inspection Program

A break was taken at 10:15 A.M. and reconvened at 10:30 A.M. with all Councilmember present.

7. Police Services

Police Chief Hyde spoke to and provided a power point presentation that depicted:

- Community Orientated Policing Problem Solving
- City Crime View Program
- Police and Community Together (PACT) Team Projects
- Community Action Team (C.A.T.) Work
- Section 8 Reforms
- DV Plaza Safety and Solutions
- Response to Homeless Issues

- Various Outreach Programs
- Criminal Justice Magnet School
- APD Hiring Information

8. Public Comments

Devi Lanphere, Antioch Chamber of Commerce, stressed the need for improvements within the community's transportation issues and requested the City Council attend an MTC July 24 meeting regarding funding issues. She also stated her support for the widening of Highway 4.

A citizen spoke to Section 8 issues and questioned the Contra Costa County's Housing Authority's screening process for potential renters. She stated her support of the Antioch Police Department for their efforts and support regarding recent Section 8 concerns.

Gary Gilbert, Chairman of United Citizens for Better Neighborhoods (UCBN), spoke to a recent newspaper article accusing the City's police department of discrimination. He expressed his disappointment in the article and felt the City had a fiduciary responsibility to protect the interests of the City before the police department was found guilty of discrimination. He voiced his support of the Police Chief and the Police Department's efforts in dealing with the crime issues throughout the community. Mr. Gilbert further stated he felt Councilmember Moore had done a disservice to the community in accusing the Antioch Police Department of discrimination towards specific individuals.

The following is a verbatim of Councilmember Moore's response Mr. Gilbert's comments:

"Well, what I heard you say this morning opened up a lot of, well I think many of us are disappointed. Mr. Gilbert that I was waiting for this investigation to be completed before I passed judgment and I'm not too sure what's wrong with waiting for an investigation to be completed before you pass judgment and take a action to correct and cure of a "perceived" problem. If there is a problem and through the process it was proven that there were some problems – and I think this Council has a responsibility to the entire community to do the right thing – and to put in policies and procedures to ensure the rights of ALL members of our community are protected without regard to social, economic or racial/ethnic background. So I'm not sure what was wrong in that statement, but it sounds like a little bit of politicking – but I'm not going to go there – but I don't understand where the problem is in my statement, but I want to wait until the investigation is completed.

Now, on the second piece, I did talk to Chief Hyde in a public forum about how we can diversity our police force. Many members of this community for many years have asked me for many years "where's the diversity in our police force?" and I was very pleased by what I saw this morning, in fact, I walked up to Chief Hyde told him, and shook his hand said, "Wow, I was very impressed. I wasn't aware of where we were through this said recruiting class, that we have reached those numbers – the numbers were very, very impressive and I was very pleased with seeing that.

Now if that does not please this audience, then I'm sorry, I thought I did nothing wrong by making a statement that I wanted to wait and see. If I did say something about this investigation that was improper, then this Council had an obligation to act and if I offended anyone here, I do apologize. But I think any responsible respectable adult will understand where I was coming from and I hope each and every one of you do understand that and if you don't, I'm sorry.

John Sapp, President of the Deer Valley Youth Football League, expressed his concern regarding the time change for the High School football games, specifically his disappointment regarding the scheduling change, and not having received timely notification. He went on to explain, had he received the playing field scheduling adjustments in a timely manner, he could have made the necessary

adjustments to his playing schedule, thus avoiding the current issue of playing fields being double booked.

Ms. Morris, citizen, questioned where the process was in regards to the City or County conducting criminal background checks, in terms of Section 8 Housing. She further questioned how additional police officers could be hired.

- Mr. Villarreal stated that background checks were currently conducted through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office and would notify the public if the policy changed in the near future.
- Mayor Freitas interjected and noted the procedure of police recruitment would be on the next City Council Forum Agenda.

Laurie Rodriguez, citizen, asked if the City had any recourse for bank foreclosures occurring within the community, in terms of the majority of the homes becoming blighted.

- NIC Graham explained once a home goes into foreclosing, the bank or entity holding the title on the foreclosed property becomes the responsible property owner. When notified of a property in need of attention, they are usually prompt in responding to any type of a property cleanup.

Mary Dodson, citizen, stated her support to the ongoing improvements to the downtown area.

Dee Viera, citizen, expressed a concern to Deer Valley Plaza, in terms of the ongoing shoplifting occurring there and requested information regarding the procedure for a citizen's arrest, for use during those times of long police response. She questioned why there was only security at Long's Drug Store and not throughout the Plaza.

- Police Chief Hyde stated he would speak to the Manager of Long's Drug Store and further explained the process of a citizen's arrest. He advised any individual contemplating a citizen's arrest, to first call the Police Department to report the incident.

Jesse Zuniga, citizen, voiced his appreciation to the City Council for their continued support to eradicate crime and their attempts to improve the quality of life for the City. In addressing Code Enforcement, he expressed his concern regarding specific areas he felt were in of need further clean up and suggested a strategy be implemented with help of the City's Public Works Department to address those areas. Mr. Zuniga expressed his appreciation to Councilmember Davis for having the courage to support the police department and the C.A.T. Team publicly in the local newspaper. Regarding the allegations of discrimination against the police department, he felt the City as a whole, was attempting to take a pro-active stance against criminal behavior, but cautioned Council, criminal behavior should not receive any type of special treatment. Mr. Zuniga addressed Councilmember Moore, stating any further type of investigation would only be doing so for a financial interest and it would also cover up illegal behavior with a label of discrimination. He felt this would be unacceptable and commended and supported the police department in their efforts against crime.

- Mayor Freitas, addressing the code enforcement issues, stated the City had approved a work alternative program that would be brought to the Council in the near future with further recommendations.
- Councilmember Moore reiterated his earlier comments, stating he felt a balanced approach should be initiated and he would prefer all citizens and individuals wait until all of the information had been received by a third party.

A member of the UCBN Group felt the allegations of discrimination against the police department were an attempt to intimidate the City Council, C.A.T. Team and the police department. Also, any third party investigation would be biased and should not be allowed.

A citizen expressed a concern regarding his receipt of a garbage can violation against his tenant. He stated his tenants were difficult and refused to comply. He further spoke to Section 8 issues, wherein Mayor Freitas noted Mr. Villarreal would meet with him personally to answer his concerns.

A local merchant expressed his appreciation to the police department regarding an incident that had occurred at his business, but also expressed concerns to long response times, and stressed the need for additional police officers for the City of Antioch.

Antioch citizen, Jim Thompson, expressed his appreciation to all city staff members for their continuing effort to improve the community and stressed the fact that rules should be followed throughout the community. In terms of the allegations of discrimination, he felt that racial profiling was only against the criminal element of the society.

An unidentified citizen expressed his appreciation to the City for their efforts in moving forward with the improvements in the downtown area.

Don Bright, resident, spoke to the future improvement of the downtown area and requested the City review the issue of funding sidewalk improvements as well as all other neighborhood improvements in the area. He stressed the City Council should move forward to protect the downtown area.

A citizen expressed the need for additional youth programs within the community, as well as additional resources.

- Police Chief Hyde stated the issue was being explored through the Youth Intervention Network.

A Section 8 recipient expressed concern regarding a landlord who had failed to repair the home he and his family were renting. He stressed to the public Section 8 recipients were not the sole cause of the problem, but stressed landlords also contributed to the problems.

9. Council Communication

Councilmember Simonsen voiced his appreciation to the public's comments and commended the UCBN for their work in the community. He welcomed Contra Costa County's new Housing Authority Director Villarreal and spoke to the benefits of the Section 8 program. He felt the public needed to be educated to better understand the program and communication needed to be improved between the Housing Authority and the public. He stated his support of the efforts put forth by the police department and their proactive efforts against crime within the community.

Councilmember Moore stated that community participation was important to the benefit of the City and felt that the Council would move forward to collectively find solutions for the betterment of the community.

Councilmember Kalinowski commended City Staff and the police department for their efforts and stated racism did not exist and any individual who believed otherwise, did a disservice to the City of Antioch. He felt the City would move forward in a positive manner.

Councilmember Davis expressed his appreciation to the public for their attendance and spoke to the accomplishments of the City and City Council, stating the City Council needed to stand behind the police officers 100 percent. He further spoke to additional actions the City had taken towards the betterment of the community and agreed the community was the Gateway to the Delta and that he did not want the community to become a blighted area.

Mayor Freitas felt the Quality of Life Forums were a benefit to the City, stating Council was obligated to provide the public with a safe environment to share with their elected officials their needs and objections, as the City Council was held accountable for the same. In terms of problem solving, he felt the City was moving in the right direction and improvements were being made. He also wanted to recognize City Staff for their hard work in providing community services and felt the City was moving forward in a positive manner.

10. Staff Communication - None.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Freitas adjourned the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Lawson
Minutes Clerk