



MINUTES
OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 14th, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room –second floor
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Call to Order:

Committee Chair Mollie Hazen called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2. Roll Call:

Members in Attendance: Mollie Hazen, Marty Takimoto, Eugene Go, Rosa Esquivel and Jim Dolgonas.

Member not in Attendance: Bruce Yow

City Council/Staff in Attendance: City Council Member Janet Abelson and Sgt. Brian Elder

Guests/Members of the Public: BART Sgt. Karen Kreitzer, Elena Hoeft and Christian Thiel

3. Approval of Minutes:

Moved and carried (Go/Esquivel) to adopt the February 14th, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Aye: Go, Esquivel and Dolgonas

Nay: None

Abstentions: Hazen and Takimoto

4. Council / Staff Liaison Reports:

City Council Member Janet Abelson identified several items being addressed by City Council which include; opposing the repeal of Prop 69, Tibet day, International Women's Month, Prescription Abuse Awareness Month and Prop 68.

Sgt. Elder spoke about several recent residential burglaries where video surveillance footage captured inside the home provided very helpful investigative leads. Sgt. Elder asked that everyone consider installing cameras in non-traditional locations and outlines several instances where they could be used effectively inside the home. Sgt. Elder also spoke about two home invasion robberies, while rare, is a very real threat to our residents. The two crimes had a unique common thread and Sgt. Elder asked that the members of the CPC share the information with their friends and family in the community. Sgt. Elder announced that he was recently promoted and will be leaving his role as CPC liaison and returning to the Patrol Division. Det. Sgt. Ian Wong will replace Sgt. Elder as CPC liaison from the Police Department.

5. Comments from the Public:

Cordell Hindler spoke with the committee about involving new people in Neighborhood Watch, providing refreshments at meetings, and identifying guest speakers for meetings.

BART Sgt. Kreitzer announced that BART is focusing attention on fare evasion and educating the public on the issue. BART is looking to network with local crime prevention efforts and to be an active participant in the work to reduce/prevent crime. BART may attend future CPC meeting and participate in future events.

6. Discussion of Crime Prevention Committee Activities:

- a) Neighborhood Watch Program Development Subcommittee (Hazen/Takimoto/Esquivel/Dolgonas)
 - The subcommittee has not recently met and there are no updates to provide to the committee. The subcommittee will work to identify a future date/s to meet and continue moving forwards on several projects. Later in the meeting Member Go discussed the possibility of having City Council make a proclamation declaring El Cerrito as a Neighborhood Watch City. Member Go will work to develop a proposal for the subcommittee to review. The proposal could then be reviewed and acted upon by City Council.

- b) Select Crime Prevention Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for 2018-2019
 - Member Esquivel nominated Mollie Hazen to remain as the Chair of the Crime Prevention Committee. There was no nomination for Vice-Chair. The committee voted unanimously to select Mollie Hazen as Chair for 2018-2019. The nomination/election of Vice-Chair will be addressed during the April meeting.

- c) Crime Prevention Committee Earth Day Work Party – Saturday, April 21st
 - The committee discussed if they would like to participate in the program and to identify possible project ideas. City Council Member Abelson noted that the work party can be done as a group or by individuals working on solitary projects. The committee did not make a decision regarding participating in the event and will address the topic during the April meeting.

7. Membership:

Elena Hoeft introduced herself as a resident of the El Cerrito community and a potential future CPC member.

8. Communication Report (Including Neighborhood Watch / Home Security Report):

Cpl. Elder indicated that there were no new messages or email for the Crime Prevention Committee.

9. Announcements:

Chair Hazen reported to the committee about a police panel that took place on March 3rd which she moderated. The panel included the Chief of Police, a Lieutenant and a Sergeant from the El Cerrito Police Department and addressed numerous topics such as crime trends and technology in law enforcement.

The Barks & Bells event is taking place on May 12th between the hours of 10am and 3pm in the parking lot of the El Cerrito Plaza shopping center.

10. Future Agenda Items:

The preparation and presentation of a Committee Work Plan was identified as a possible future agenda item but not added to the April meeting agenda.

11. Adjournment:

Moved and carried (unanimous); adjourned at 7:59pm.