MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Crime Prevention Committee

March 6, 2023 7:00 PM

Zoom meeting

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 PM CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Vice Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

7:00 PM CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. ROLL CALL – Present: Vice Chair Cedrick Cobb, Members: George Gager and Jim Dolgonas were present. Dorothy Herzberg was absent.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cordell Hindler sent an email about recruiting more youth to learn about the Homeowners Association’s Procedures and Bylaws, inviting guest speakers to provide information on trends in El Cerrito and considering having potlucks prior to the start of the meeting.

Jon Bashor spoke and communicated his desire to be on the Crime Prevention Committee. He is interested in the mission of the CPC and comes from a Law Enforcement family. Explained he is a really good communicator. Explained that he had been the victim of a car theft in 2020 in El Cerrito. He is interested in getting the message out to residents about how to prevent crimes in El Cerrito.

Bret Guest spoke and communicated his desire to be on the Crime Prevention Committee. He explained that his family has lived in El Cerrito since the 1930’s. Explained that he was rooted in the community and has no plans on leaving. Explained that in 2017 he prevented a violent crime in El Cerrito and is interested in making El Ceritto a safer place.

Sue Hansen spoke and communicated her possible desire to be on the Crime Prevention Committee. Said she has attended some of the CPC meetings in the past and is interested in general public safety in the City of El Cerrito.
3. **COUNCIL AND STAFF LIASON REPORTS**

Sergeant Leone introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his career at the El Cerrito Police Department and his current assignment. Explained that he has acted as the staff liason to the CPC for several meetings throughout the years so he is somewhat familiar with the CPC. Explained that he is looking forward to working with the CPC.

Sergeant Leone gave a staff report from the police department. He gave a brief overview of a recent armed Robbery series that the El Cerrito Detectives were able to solve and get the suspect into custody with the help of the Richmond Police Department SWAT team. When Detectives searched her residence they located evidence to include clothing worn during the Robbery and several firearms.

Sergeant Leone briefed the CPC members on another case where an El Cerrito High School student had been involved in an argument with a teacher and then assaulted the teacher. A witness then saw that the student had a handgun in his waistband. The student fled the campus after the assault. The following day the El Cerrito Police Department served a search warrant at the students house and took him into custody, however did not locate a firearm.

Sergeant Leone updated the CPC on the status of the Flock ALPR camera system. The CPC was told that Chief of Police was presenting the Flock information to the City Council at a City Council meeting in March. Sergeant Leone answered some questions the CPC members had about the system.

Sergeant Leone explained how the catalytic converter etching program will work and who is eligible to obtain a kit.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Review and approve minutes from February 6th, 2023, meeting.

- Motion to approve minutes: made by James Dolganas, seconded by George Gager.
- Ayes: Vice Chair Cobb, Members Gager and Dolgonas.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
6. **APPROVAL OF ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF REGULAR CRIME PREVENTION MEETINGS**

The members were given a calendar with the proposed dates for the CPC meetings highlighted on it. There was a discussion about the September meeting falling on Labor Day (September 4th) so that meeting could be moved to September 11th. Sergeant Leone explained that another advisory body meeting will be taking place in the council chambers on that date so the CPC meeting could be moved to the alternate site in the community room at Hana Gardens (next door to city hall). There was also a discussion about canceling the July meeting that would fall on July 3rd because it was the night before the July 4th holiday. Ultimately, the Crime Prevention Committee approved for the 2023 meetings to be held on April 3rd, May 1st, June 5th, August 7th, September 11th, October 2nd, November 6th, and December 4th.

- Motion to approve CPC calendar: made by Vice Chair Cobb, seconded by George Gager.
- Ayes: Vice Chair Cobb, Members Gager and Dolgonas.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None

7. **APPOINTMENT OF CRIME PREVENTION MEETING CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Cobb spoke to the group and said he would be interested in remaining as the Vice Chair; however, due to personal reasons would not be interested in becoming the Chair.

Member Gager expressed interest in becoming the Chair.

Member Dolgonas made a motion to nominate Member Gager to the Chair position. Vice Chair Cobb seconded the motion.

- Ayes: Vice Chair Cobb, Member Dolgonas.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: Member Gager
Member Dolganas made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Cobb to the Vice Chair position. Chair Gager seconded the motion.

- Ayes: Chair Gager, Member Dolgonas.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: Vice Chair Cobb

8. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

There were no telephone calls, or CPC emails received to report on.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chair Gager led a discussion about some recent telephone scams that family members of his have been the recipient of. The discussion was about what the CPC could possibly do to get the message out to the El Cerrito community about these scams. Suggestions were made to come up with a flyer to distribute or maybe distribute the information on a site such as Nextdoor.com to get the word out on a regular basis.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continue discussion as to creating information about crime trends to release to the public and explore how to get the information out to the community.

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

George Gager, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Crime Prevention Committee meeting of 3-6-23 as approved by the Crime Prevention Committee.

A. Leone
Sergeant Aaron Leone, Staff Liaison