

Chief Cantando to Visit Vallejo

The Citizens Public Safety Advisory Committee meets Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 555 Santa Clara Street, Downtown Vallejo. Guest speaker is Antioch Police Chief Allan Cantando. The meeting will be live streamed on the City's website and be broadcast live on Channel 28.

Responding to budget cuts, Chief Cantando has made significant changes. Antioch Police Department's two teams of patrol officers now overlap one day a week. Having twice as many officers on duty that day means there are more police cruising the streets. It also provides the opportunity for other officers, freed up from their regular duties, to take specialized training without working overtime. Additional badges enable a department to spend more time going after lawbreakers before criminal activity turns into a call for service. The department has also reassigned an officer to investigate burglaries so there are now two detectives working that detail.

Antioch police are preparing to upload a list of "Antioch's Most Wanted" to the city's website, where the public can see photos of suspects who have warrants out for their arrest. Additionally, the department is considering adopting Richmond's "Ceasefire" program. This approach involves contacting individuals with violent criminal histories and making it clear that the police will come down on them the moment they step out of line again.

Since the beginning of the year, Cantando's officers have conducted four sweeps of several problem areas that resulted in 14 arrests, 112 citations, the recovery of four stolen vehicles and the same number of illegal firearms. And it's stationing empty patrol cars in certain commercial areas around town to deter panhandlers and would-be thieves.

Cantando feels that police won't be as effective fighting crime if residents don't help and emphasizes the need for Neighborhood Watch groups. "The chances of us haphazardly coming across something isn't the best way to police," Cantando said.

email the committee at CitizensPublicSafetyAdvisoryCommittee@ci.vallejo.ca.us. If you can't attend the meeting send your questions and we will make sure they are asked.