

Orinda police chief reports that cameras have led to arrests, convictions

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda has agreed to a memorandum of understanding with Flock Group, a Georgia-based company, that allows the Orinda Police Department to access data from community cameras stored in the Flock system. The action was taken by the city council, authorizing the city manager to enter into the MOU, following an update on March 16 by Orinda Police Chief David Cook on crime in the city and the role of cameras in resolving cases.

Orinda commenced a pilot camera program in 2015 and made it permanent in 2016. In his update to the council, Cook said that he could clearly say that cameras have been instrumental in solving serious crimes that have occurred in the community. "In the past year alone," he said, "cameras have been instrumental in identifying suspects in crimes such as armed robbery, felony hit-and-run, and a felony assault on a police officer." As a

result, he added, cases have been closed and criminals faced prosecution as a direct result of the city camera system.

In addition to the city operated cameras, more residents or neighborhood groups have been interested in purchasing cameras and sharing data with the police. One community association, the Wilder Homeowners Association, has purchased a camera system from Flock Safety, a private security company. According to the chief's report, Flock Safety has an advanced camera system that takes photographs based on motion, stores images for 30 days, and maintains an advanced searchable database of images. The homeowners association requested that OPD have access to search this data, and the MOU will allow for that. In public comments, Johnathan Young said that he is the chair of his HOA's Flock camera commission, and that they have found huge value in the cameras, and expect great

value in having them connected to OPD.

Orinda city staff are also working with the police to evaluate the need for replacement cameras as the existing cameras age. Staff has proposed that the chief continue to work with the city manager to upgrade and expand the existing city automated license plate reader and still camera systems, which will include phasing out the use of the current Reconyx system.

In his update to the council, Cook talked about an officer walking through Rite Aid who was called upon to pursue a suspected thief to his car. In escaping arrest, the suspect hit and injured the officer. The suspect was later identified and arrested in Berkeley. The suspect, 28-year-old Delvente Murry of San Francisco, is being held at the Martinez Detention Facility on charges of assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, felony evading, obstructing a peace officer, and probation violation.

In connection with a recent home invasion robbery, a car was located and seized, and evidence was obtained from the car. The investigation is ongoing. As previously reported, a person is in custody in connection with numerous commercial burglaries in Orinda and Lafayette.

Cook also spoke about an incident where someone was trying to enter a home on Whitehall Drive. A search was conducted with assistance from Moraga, Lafayette, and the Contra Costa Sheriff. While the search did not locate any suspects at that time, video led to identification of a vehicle,

Cook said, and detectives are following up.

Cook also reported an uptick in stolen cars and stolen catalytic converters and addressed questions from the council and the public including the use of Nixle and Nextdoor to communicate with residents about interagency support, neighborhood watch groups, and the benefits of using technology over employing more police officers. "You can't just hire one officer," he explained, "because there are four shifts; to add one more officer you need to hire four."

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, April 27, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Letters to the editor

Orinda Not Responsible for Creek Oversight

The letter from Bob Stoops (published Mar. 31) mischaracterizes the role of Orinda as alleged "floodplain manager." Contrary to his letter, the city is NOT responsible "for ensuring adequate flood protection for our downtown." I have confirmed with Orinda's Public Works Director that Orinda currently has no legal responsibility to do any study or do anything else regarding the creek. Moreover, were a hydrological study to establish that there is a greater risk of flooding downtown than is currently believed by FEMA, the losers will be the downtown businesses, who will see a dramatic rise in their flood insurance premiums.

Why would Mr. Stoops misstate Orinda's responsibility? The reason is that he is one of the leaders of Friends of Orinda Creeks, and FOC wants the city to spend over \$100,000 of taxpayer dollars for a hydrological study of FOC's plan to realign and restore the creek. The FOC plan would realign the creek so that it meanders, which would increase the risk of flooding, which might require the city to spend enormous sums to mitigate that risk, and which would increase the risk and costs to business owners downtown. Notably, although Mr. Stoops is advocating that taxpayer money be spent on the FOC plan, he is not listed on the FOC website as having contributed any of his own money to

FOC in the last 12 months.

A restoration of the creek at taxpayer expense has limited public support. The sales tax scientific survey a year ago established that fewer than half of Orinda residents want to spend money for this. The FOC website states that only approximately two dozen people have made contributions to FOC in the last 12 months. Yet FOC, a vocal minority, continues to press its agenda, insisting that the city use taxpayers' money to advance its agenda.

There are better uses for our limited financial resources, such as fire prevention, storm drains, and roads, as the sales tax survey demonstrated. Nick Waranoff Orinda

A step to recovery

I attend Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM). The worldwide pandemic, Covid-19, has not failed to hit our Lamorinda schools. We have adapted to learning vital knowledge that will serve students a lifetime in minuscule boxes on a screen instead of in well functioning classrooms.

Being a seventh-grader in the center of all this uncertainty and rapid social and academic changes, the ability to return to class using a hybrid system is heartily welcomed. A friend and fellow classmate of mine informed me that, "School is my favorite place ... I know going

back during the pandemic won't be the same but any fraction of the experience I am excited for."

Even though this pandemic has challenged students and pushed them to their limits there is still a silver lining to be found. Especially in our community of Lamorinda where education and extracurricular activities are such a given, it has provided students with a new gratitude and appreciation for the amazing opportunities we have found and been presented with. A fellow JM student told me that, "Covid has made me more grateful for school but it has also reminded me how fun school really is."

Currently, my junior high, JM, is continuing to look for even more ways to improve the student's return to school. For example, figuring out safe ways to allow all students to attend school for more than three hours a day and every week instead of every other. Perhaps, many years from now we will make jokes about masks and kooties and coughing, but for now the pandemic is causing a surreal reality that has pushed students, teachers, and parents, and the opening of schools is a huge weight lifted, and a big step in the direction of recovery. Anya Houston Moraga

Housing Element challenges ahead

Every eight years, a state initiative known as the Regional

Housing Needs Allocation requires California's cities to plan for more housing. From 2013 to 2021, the state instructed Lafayette to plan for the development of 400 new units. From 2021 to 2029, we must plan for over 2,000.

These numbers present an opportunity to learn about how we can reap the benefits of growth and minimize its negative impacts. Inclusive Lafayette believes new development in our town should be planned with three goals in mind: limiting adverse impacts on our infrastructure, services, and safety; promoting more equitable and inclusive housing; and minimizing costly violations of state law.

By allowing denser multi-family housing in our downtown corridor, Lafayette can minimize the burdens of new development on our infrastructure. Encouraging walkable communities near BART and Highway 24 will reduce the traffic impacts of new cars and boost our local businesses with a larger consumer base. Data from the Census and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development suggests multi-family housing typically brings a third of the school-age children that single-family homes do, so higher-density develop-

ment downtown will bring a moderate number of students to our schools. State laws and local ordinances also incentivize developers to include affordable units in denser developments.

The city should also study and consider upzoning for duplexes, triplexes, and quads in certain areas outside of downtown, especially near schools and the community center. Upzoning in these areas, to the extent deemed safe by fire safety experts, could promote a more equitable distribution of development across Lafayette.

New housing throughout the community can help make Lafayette more accessible to future residents who are unable to afford our exclusive cost of living, such as our teachers, service workers, and others who cannot afford multi-million dollar homes.

Our Housing Element will be the best it can be if we bring diverse viewpoints to the table. Lafayette community members, please participate in GPAC meetings to make sure that your voices are heard. Visit inclusive-lafayette.org to learn more about our vision for building a more equitable community. Inclusive Lafayette board

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
March 21 - April 3
Alarms 48
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
Traffic 70
Suspicious Circumstances 11
Suspicious Subject 21
Suspicious Vehicle 11
Service to Citizen 37
Patrol Req./Security Check 54
Pubic/School Assembly Check 2
Supplemental Report 18
Vacation House Check 25
Welfare Check 20
Ordinance Violation 5
Vehicle violations
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd. Hope Ln./St. Marys Rd. Reckless Driving St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr. 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. 3400 Block School St. Eb Sr 24 At Oak Hill Rd. Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd. Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage 200 Block St. Marys Rd. Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.
Vehicle Theft 3300 Block McGraw Ln.
Other criminal activity
Defraud Innkeeper 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fraud Credit Card 3400 Block Little Ln. 3200 Block Ameno Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses Police Department 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Identity Theft 3300 Block Las Huertas Rd. 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Misc Burglary 1000 Block Carol Ln.
Panhandling Whole Foods 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft 900 Block S Thompson Rd. 1600 Block Reliez Valley Rd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (7) 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Drunk In Public Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.
Loud Party 3500 Block Brook St. 10 Block Diablo Cir.
Public Nuisance Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.
Other
Threats 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 900 Block Stow Ln. 3400 Block Golden Gate Wy 3400 Block Shangri La Rd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Trespass 3100 Block Somerset Dr.
Unwanted Guest 10 Block Moss Ln. 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Restraining Ord 800 Block Acalanes Rd. (2)

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



March 23 - April 5
Alarms 17
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7
Traffic 43
Suspicious Circumstances 8
Suspicious Subject 4
Suspicious Vehicle 6
Service to Citizen 29
Patrol Req./Security Check 16
Supplemental Report 12
Vacation House Check 3
Welfare Check 10
Pubic/School Assembly Check 2
Vehicle violations
Accident Property 2000 Block Ascot Dr. 1200 Block School St.
Excessive Speed Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr. (3) Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln. Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd. Ivy Dr./Moraga Way (3) Moraga Rd./School St. Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd. Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. Rheem Blvd./Fayhill Chalda Way/Rheem Blvd. Hardie Dr./Moraga Way Moraga Country Club Moraga Via Ln./Moraga Way Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1000 Block Larch Ave.
Reckless Driving Campolindo High School Camino Pablo/Knoll Dr. Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd. Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Vehicle Theft Not Available
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card Not Available
Identity Theft 1000 Block Carter Dr. (3) Safeway
Petty Theft Safeway
Shoplift Cvs Safeway

Warrant Arrest Woodside Dr./Corliss Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 200 Block N Sandringham 1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr.
Disturbance-fight Miramonte High School
Disturbing The Peace Cvs 70 Block Miramonte Dr.
Dui Misd Taco Bell
Loud Motorcycle 2000 Block Ascot Dr. (2)
Loud Music 50 Block Miramonte Dr. Canyon Club Brewery 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Loud Party 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Public Nuisance Police Department
Vandalism Starbucks
Other
Animal Cruelty Homegoods
Mentally Ill Commit 100 Block Danefield Pl.
Revoked License Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Trespass Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.
Violation Restraining Order 70 Block Miramonte Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

March 14- March 27
Alarms 34
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6
Traffic 32
Suspicious Circumstances 1
Suspicious Subject 5
Suspicious Vehicle 12
Service to Citizen 68
Patrol Req./Security Check 54
Supplemental Report 13
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 6
Pubic/School Assembly Check 9

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury 100 Block Moraga Way
Accident Property Bates Blvd./Davis Rd. Scenic Dr./Debra Ct.
Reckless Driving Moraga Way/Valley View Dr. Moraga Way/Camino Pablo 70 Block Donald Dr.
Tc - Property Damage Orinda Theater
Other criminal activity
Child Molest 10 Block Stein Way
Grand Theft Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way Miramonte High School 50 Block Bates Blvd. 90 Block Muth Dr.
Grand Theft Veh Part 200 Block Glorietta Blvd. 90 Block Loma Vista Dr.
Identity Theft 20 Block Los Amigos
Possession of Stolen Prop Fire Station 45 Moraga Orinda
Shoplift Beverages And More 10 Block Theatre Sq 106
Nuisance to the Community
Drunk In Public Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Loud Music 4400 Block El Nido Ranch Rd. El Nido Ranch Rd./St. Stephens
Loud Noise 100 Block Coral Dr. 10 Block Camino Lenada 60 Block Brookwood Rd.
Public Nuisance El Camino Moraga/Moraga Way
Vandalism Beverages And More 300 Block Moraga Way Bear Creek Rd./Wildcat Canyon
Other
Fireworks Miramonte High School Orinda Intermediate School
Unwanted Guest Holy Shepherd Church
Violation Restraining Ord 500 Block Moraga Way