

Reinke, Lisa

From: Ebbs, Forrest
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Ford, Steven; Reinke, Lisa
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd
Subject: RE: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

Chief,

Thank you for the productive meeting today. To summarize, APD will continue to use its Facebook page as usual but will have the comments disabled. Residents will be encouraged to use the formal avenues for comment and public participation that APD continues to facilitate.

Sincerely,

Forrest B. Ebbs
Acting City Manager
Community Development Director

☎: (925) 779-7038
📧: [Community Development Department](#)

City of Antioch | P.O. Box 5007, Antioch, CA 94531-5007

From: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>; Reinke, Lisa <lreinke@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: RE: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

We can disable comments to confirm.

From: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:37 AM
To: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>; Reinke, Lisa <lreinke@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: RE: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

I will have Susan set something up. Were you able to find out if we can disable comments?

Forrest B. Ebbs
Acting City Manager
Community Development Director

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From: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>; Reinke, Lisa <lreinke@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: RE: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

Good morning, I'm circling back to confirm the requisite meeting date and time. To confirm we are not posting anything on our Facebook site until we all convene and work this out.

From: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:18 PM
To: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>; Reinke, Lisa <lreinke@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: Re: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

I will set that up. I am familiar with these First Amendment issues. They are triggered when you selectively include or exclude individuals or viewpoints. I would suggest closing all comments to allow a bulletin board rather than a public forum. Thomas can clarify or offer his view on this too. Look for an invite tomorrow.

Forrest B. Ebbs
Acting City Manager
Community Development Director

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☐

From: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 3:18:54 PM
To: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>; Reinke, Lisa <lreinke@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: RE: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

I'm totally on board with your concern about non-productive comments and communications. I truthfully don't know if we can disable the comments, but we'll research that. I'd like to sit down with you when you have a free moment. I think a 15 minute chat will suffice. Please include Thomas, and I'll include someone from my administrative staff. Looking forward to our conversations. In the interim we will not post anything on our Facebook platform. I have Mrs. Reinke looped in for coordination.

Please see the noted links identifying the illegality of censoring commentary from the public. These links also illustrate 1st Amendment Violations where government infringes on free speech. In essence, what's being requested may be unlawful.

<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/social-media-censorship-government-official>
<https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1738/government-use-of-social-media>

From: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 2:01 PM
To: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: RE: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

Can you disable the comments? That is my primary concern. I'm uncomfortable hosting a public discussion venue without moderation. The comments both ways are not productive. I would also prefer that we limit it to messages related to public safety. We should not be driving a parallel conversation or public discourse apart from the City Council. Disabling comments would address this.

Forrest B. Ebbs
Acting City Manager
Community Development Director

☎: (925) 779-7038
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From: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>
Cc: Smith, Thomas Lloyd <TLSmith@antiochca.gov>
Subject: Directive for APD to discontinue Use of Facebook

Per your directive, we are preparing to suspend activity on our Antioch Police Department Facebook account. We currently utilize Facebook (along with other social media platforms) to communicate timely notices to the community for the following purposes:

Shelter-in-place orders which could be related to natural disasters, utility disruptions, armed and dangerous subjects, school lock-downs, and road closures

Critical Missing children and dependent adults (often at-risk, autistic, Alzheimer and dementia patients)

Community appeals for suspect identifications for violent crimes including homicides, fatal hit-and-run accidents, and armed robberies

9-1-1 Center disruptions

Announcements of important community events including Coffee With the Cops, IACP trust building campaign, and our most recent listening sessions

Public transparency regarding issues of concern including police/public interactions and our current and planned reform efforts

Moving forward, how should we continue to provide these vital, 24-hour community notifications?

Additionally, we have 33,039 Facebook followers at current count, and our posts over the last 28 days have reached 234,936 people. Should we provide some type of advance notice to these numerous community members so that they can be made aware of what (if any) social media site they should be directed to?

Please advise how we can best continue to keep our community well informed of these crucial matters that are also time and public safety sensitive in nature. Important to also mention is the directive for our discontinued use of Facebook places us in direct non-compliance with our policies and procedures. It appears prudent that now more than ever we should be adhering to all laws, policies, and procedures as currently codified. Moreover, all efforts to restructure and reform the organization will be drastically mitigated; mindful external communication(s) are a critical part of our Department of Justice/Public Safety Partnership Program which was officially codified 4/6/23.

I look forward to your response, and how best to proceed with not just the issue around external communications, but also the very nuanced reformed efforts that are underway and ongoing since April 2022. To be clear, all reform efforts are mitigated without our ability to communicate externally. The package of policies, procedures, and best practices (21st Century Policing Pillars) provided to you several weeks ago illustrates that reality.



Steven A. Ford, Ed.D, M.S.
Chief of Police
Antioch Police Department
300 L St. Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: 925.779.6902
sford@antiochca.gov



Ford, Steven

From: Ford, Steven
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:32 AM
To: Ebbs, Forrest
Subject: Re: Facebook page

Copy. I will inform the staff and community that all external communications via Facebook are directed to cease.

From: Ebbs, Forrest <febbs@antiochca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:55:37 PM
To: Ford, Steven <sford@antiochca.gov>
Subject: Facebook page

Chief,

We will be pursuing a consolidation of communications soon. As such, I'm asking you and your department to cease the use of the APD Facebook page effective immediately and would like it taken down as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Forrest B. Ebbs
Acting City Manager
Community Development Director

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