

## CITY OF FONTANA FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

**TO:** All attendees of the Area 1 West Community Meeting

**FROM:** Lieutenant Bill Megenney, Area 1 Commander

**DATE:** February 10, 2015

**SUBJECT:** AREA 1 WEST COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2015

### Lt. Megenney

- Welcomed everyone to the community meeting and advised that there were several presentations schedule for the meeting.
- Introduced the following members from City departments in attendance: Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Councilmember Michael Tahan, Engineering Kevin Ryan, Public Works Sergio Quiroz, Planning Shannon Casey

### Planning Shannon Casey

- He is a senior planner for the City of Fontana
- Has 18 years' experience as a planner, 10 of those years with the city of Fontana.
- Projects going on in the City of Fontana:
  - Arboretum
    - 531 acres
    - 8.8 acres for commercial
    - Residential density up to 24 units an acre
    - Up to 3,526 new residential units
    - Approximately 23 acres of parks
  - Summit at Rosena
    - Approximately 180 acres
    - Variety of housing types from townhomes to 10,000 sq foot lots SFR
    - Trails and park amenities
  - Fontana Auto Center
    - Rotolo Chevrolet is already up there
    - Fontana Nissan is already up there
    - Rock Honda is already up there
    - Valley Kia has plans of constructing up there
    - And rumor has it Mercedes Benz might be interested
  - Highland Village
    - In Pre-application phase

- 11.05 acres
  - Shopping center with anchor stores, medical offices, sit down and drive through restaurants, gas station and other retail stores.
- Sierra Crest 1 & 2
  - 366 Single Family residents
  - Medium Density (4,000 Sq ft lots)
  - Under construction
- Sierra Warehouse
  - Currently Under construction
  - 742,000 sq. ft
  - Truck access from Mango Avenue for access to the 210 freeway
- Sierra Pacific Center
  - Currently under review
  - 763,283 sq ft warehouse
  - 38 acres
- Trammel Crow
  - Currently under review
  - 597,818 sq ft warehouse
  - 28 acres site
  - SEC Sierra Avenue and Clubhouse Drive
- Centerstone
  - Rezoned from R-3 to R-2
  - 97 single family residents lots (4,000 sq ft lots)
  - 16.7 acres
  - Gated community
  - Density 5.8 per acre
  - .76 acre park
- Promenade
  - Commerical and residential specific plan
  - 49 acres mixed density residential
  - 46.8 acres of commercial (664,000 square feet)
  - Walmart owns approximately 20 acres
  - Application filed in October 2012
  - Environmental Consultant has been chosen
  - No word from Walmart in approximately 8 to 10 months

#### **Engineering-Kevin Ryan**

- In the last 6-7 weeks we received approval to split the freeway.
- We have worked out the false work issue, so you should start seeing movement on the Duncan Canyon project.
- The project at Sierra and the 15 freeway is a Caltrans project, they are widening underneath the freeway and also installing traffic signals.
- Ribbon cutting for cherry overpass is at the end of the month.

## **Marijuana Grow Houses-Detective Macias**

- Scientific name is Cannabis Sativa
- Main psychoactive chemical is Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
- Types of Marijuana
  - Marijuana
  - Concentrated cannabis (Hashish, hashish oil, Honey oil extraction labs)
  - Synthetic cannabis (marinol)
  - Varieties of Marijuana
    - Sativa
    - Indica
    - Ruderalis
- Several different strands of marijuana
- Strands are based on THC Level of plant
  - AK-47
  - Purple Kush
  - Stress
  - Arizona
  - THC Level is as low as 5% and up to 25%
  - The higher the THC level the better the BUD and more expensive it is
  - Average percent of THC in 1970's was about 6%, presently it is about 20%
- Outdoor Marijuana Grows
  - Historically in California
  - Primarily in the "Emerald Triangle" of Northern California (Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties)
  - Began in the early 70's as major cash crop for the area
  - Marijuana is Humboldt County's biggest cash crop and county would be bankrupt if marijuana was not grown in the area
  - The area is internationally respected for their growing of Marijuana
- What is an indoor Grow?
  - A marijuana growing operation is best defined as an organized commercial criminal enterprise. Statistically 95% of all indoor grows are controlled by organized crime.
  - Many individuals have different roles such as purchasing/renting homes, equipping homes, tending to the plants, laundering cash, and transporting the marijuana.
- Who is at risk:
  - Electrical contractors (read meters and services power outages)
  - Neighbors
  - Police Officers: Entering, containing, and investigating the grow houses.
  - Firemen that attend to a grow house fire (1 in 10 catches fire)
- What to look for:
  - Residents only attend the home occasionally for short periods of time.

- Equipment such as large fans, lights, plastic plant containers and soil carried in at odd hours
  - The exterior appearance of the property is untidy
  - Entry is often made into the home through the garage to conceal activities
  - Garbage bags containing used soil and plant material are discarded in surrounding areas
  - Windows are covered to prevent light from entering the home and to conceal activities
  - Bright light can be seen escaping from windows and windows are often covered with condensation
  - Hydrometers are tampered with
  - Sounds of construction may be heard and ventilation fans can sometimes be heard
  - The growing marijuana produces a strong skunk like odor that can often be detected outside the home.
- Characteristics of an indoor grow
  - The residence almost always has an attached garage to facilitate the loading and unloading of equipment and product without being detected by neighbors or police.
  - The owner usually does not live in the newly acquired residence but has the bedrooms and uncommon area rooms converted into grow rooms.
  - Residences from the outside appear as normal and appear as lived in; the lawn is cut, the driveway is clear, garbage is put to the curb on designated trash days.
  - It is not unusual to have all the windows to a grow house covered from within
  - The windows, especially the upstairs, are covered first by blinds or curtains, then by wood and reflective material
  - Electrical by-pass-The by-pass of electricity is by-passed around the revenue meter. As the power is diverted into the residence it is redistributed through a secondary breaker and into the operation. This procedure involves cutting into live residential wires and is very dangerous.
  - The electrical wiring for a grow house is sophisticated, unique and requires a great deal of electrical expertise to assemble.
  - The stolen electricity is used to power large lights, fans and other growing equipment.
  - Lights are 1000 watts-ballast power lights and hold charge for up to 5 hours even unplugged
  - Chemicals-Indoor marijuana growing operations use growth promoting fertilizers and chemicals that are dangerous if not handled properly.
  - Elaborate ventilation systems are used to bring excessive heat from the lighting out of the growing areas and into the attic venting into surrounding neighborhoods.
  - Often the growers try to conceal the smell of marijuana by using air purification systems or vent during the night time hours.
- Stages

- The grow operations are often set up in three stages in order to spread out the work involved in the harvesting and to provide steady income.
- The environment is controlled artificially in order to maximize output of the grow
- In such an ideal environment a plant can mature in a little as two months.
- Who are the victims
  - You and other electrical consumers paying for the millions of dollars lost in utility theft.
  - You and the insurance companies who pay to have the homes repaired when the land owner pleads ignorance
  - You or prospective purchases of a home that was formerly a grow house.
- Legalization of Marijuana
  - Use of recreational MJ is not legal in California
  - Must have a medical recommendation
  - CA medical MJ dispensaries are a cash only business
  - Violence associated with CA MJ dispensaries (robbery, burglary, theft)
  - Other states have legalized MJ for recreational us (WA and CO)
  - State laws vs. Federal Laws for legalization
  - Delivery services of marijuana in California is illegal
  - Caregiver vs. Drug Dealer (Prop 215 compassionate Use Act of 1996)
  - How medical marijuana dispensaries are supposed to operate in CA
  - There are no dispensaries in the City of Fontana

**Questions and Concerns of the Residents of Area 1:**

**How big are the homes in Sierra Crest 1 and 2?** The homes are about 2,000 to 3,000 square ft on 4,000 sq ft lots.

**The problem with Walmart is they don't keep their store or their parking lot clean. Is there any way the city can do something to take care of that?** There can be a conditional use permit issued requiring them to hire a company to clean their parking lot after hours but there really isn't any way to enforce that because no one works late nights to make sure anyone is cleaning the parking lot.

**With all the residential development is there any plans for schools to be added in the area?**  
Yes there are plans for additional schools to be built.

**Are people allowed to drive in the hills on the dirt roads?** That is forest land jurisdiction we wouldn't be able to enforce anything there.

**There are still some people shooting off fireworks in the area.** We will have our helicopter keep an eye out of it.

**Their daughter just bought a house just east of there and someone was casing the house saying they were the new renters. What can be done in that situation?** Situations like this are hard to deal with, however if you see something happening like that give us a call we will have code compliance go out and check it out.

**Saw an officer parked on Coyote Canyon doing reports, he appreciated that and advised officers can do their reports there all the time.**

**How many new officers has the city hired?** Probably within the last year about 14 new officers and we continue to grow.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

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