

**CITY OF FONTANA  
FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TO:** All attendees of the Area 4 Community Meeting

**FROM:** Lieutenant Escarpe, Area 4 Watch Commander

**DATE:** June 1, 2016

**SUBJECT: AREA 4 COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 26,2016**

**Lt. Escarpe**

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- He is the area commander for Area 4. He is also in charge of the Air Support Unit. He has been at the police department for 28 years and his last assignment prior to the Area Commander program was the Lieutenant in charge of the Detective unit.
- Introductions: Officer Jason Coillot, Officer Travis Burnside, Officer Tom Moore, Code Compliance Alondra Yniguez, Code Compliance Peggy Fonseca, Patrol Sergeant Chris Surgent and Community Services Melissa Darchuk.

**Officer Jason Coillot and Officer Travis Burnside-Gangs:**

- What is a gang?
  - A formal or informal organization or association with 3 or more subjects with a common sign or symbol, whose primary purpose is criminal in nature.
- What does the Gang Unit do?
  - They work 40 to 60 hours a week in the city looking for gang activity.
  - Gather intelligence
  - Interview suspects
  - Conduct parole/probation checks
  - Identify taggers, party crews and probationers in our City.
  - Investigates graffiti
- Current Gangs in Fontana:
  - South Fontana
  - Head Hunters
  - Hardtimes
  - Latin Kings
  - NAW
  - ALC
  - Bloomas
  - Westside Fontana (NHL)
  - Eastside Fontana (CWP)
  - NLK (Night Life Kings)

- Common Gang Crimes:
  - Narcotics
  - Illegal guns/weapons possession
  - Burglary
  - Robbery
  - Identity theft
  - Graffiti
  - Drive-by shootings
  - Homicides
  - Major assaults
- Seeing an increase of Identity theft among gangs. They are breaking into mailboxes, so if you see something suspicious please call it in.
- South Fontana associate their logo with the San Francisco Giants or the 49ers.
- Chingones wear a Cincinnati Reds Hat.
- South Fontana started way back in the 1950's on Slover.
- There is no reason why people join gangs. However if we are able to figure out a child is going into that direction early we might be able to prevent it from happening. So as a parent you want to make sure you monitor their social media because they usually post gang related stuff on there all the time.
- Female gang members are just as dangerous as the guys. They will carry the drugs or guns and they will usually be the ones driving the cars.
- We do still have outlaw motorcycle gangs however they usually don't cause us any problems.
- Most gang members the unit deals with are from 15 to 18 years old.

### **Lt. Escarpe**

- Area 4 is everything south of the 10 freeway.
- For March and April 2016 Residential Burglaries are down 61% in Area 4.
- Commercial burglaries have remained the same.
- There has been a spike in vehicle burglaries.
  - If you leave your vehicle unattended do not leave anything of value out in the open. Do not leave your phones, or even car chargers in your vehicle. Make sure the lock and secure your vehicle.
- There was also a spike in vehicle thefts.
  - Older Honda civics are really popular to steal
  - The hot spot in the south end is north of Santa Ana to South of Slover between Cherry and Sierra.
  - Usually the suspects are crews, or drug addicts
- Robberies remained the same
- Our homicide rate for the last several years have been down.
- We have a new Chief of Police. He is a 27 year veteran with the police department and he has a good character and is very personable. He is genuinely a good man.
- We are currently going through a lot of promotions.

**Questions and Concerns of the Residents of Area 4:**

***When someone is caught doing graffiti, do they have to pay restitution?***

We will put all that information in the case we submit to the courts, however it is up to the court system to order them to pay restitution. Sometimes we get it sometimes we don't.

***Where are the gang members at?***

It is hard to identify them now days. It is not like back in the day when they all wore baggy pants and had shaved heads. Now they wear skinny jeans and have their hair spiked. We do not have areas in Fontana where gangs just hang out on corners like they do in LA.

***If they call the police department because they see a crime occurring or a suspicious person, do they have to stick around until the cops show up?***

No you don't, however it would help the officers to catch the bad guy. If you are in a situation where you witness a crime we suggest you stay a safe distance away but stay on the phone with dispatch because if you can see them then we will be able to catch them.

***Aren't gang members usually proud to go to prison?***

They have to put in work for the gang so in order to get their tattoos they have to do something that benefits the gang, so yes they are proud because going to prison means they did something that benefited the gang.

***How many gang members are in the Southern portion of Fontana?***

In the south end there maybe like 10 Head Hunters and South Fontana Gang is throughout the whole city and they have around 300 plus members.

***Are gang members still called Cholos or is that outdated?***

It is pretty outdated.

***So for the most part, most of the gangs are from LA?***

No, our biggest gangs in Fontana are home grown gangs, such as South Fontana. We don't have a lot of LA Gangs out here.

***Are there streets in Fontana we should avoid and not go down when it is dark?***

We don't have any really bad streets in Fontana but if you stay on the main streets you will be ok.

***Thank the Police Department for making the city of Fontana safer.***

***With the warehouses being built, what is being done with all the traffic, if anything?***

The traffic issues are addressed when the plans are submitted to the city. The developer usually needs to come up with a plan to handle a high amount of vehicles if the developer feels that it will be an impact. The warehouses that are being built are a main reason the improvements on Jurupa have taken place.

***Can semi-trucks drive down any street?***

No they cannot, there are designated truck routes they need to stay on unless they are making a delivery.

***When you get off the 60 freeway it takes forever to get into our city.***

You probably need to speak with a city traffic engineer however that is considered Riverside County so there might not be much that we can do.

**THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 AT SOUTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL, 14500 LIVE OAK, FONTANA CA 92337 AT 6:30 PM.**

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

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