

# MINUTES

## Area 3 Community Meeting

February 25, 2019 6:30pm | *Dolores Huerta International Academy* Area Commander Lt. Keith Zagorin

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### In Attendance

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Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Councilmember Jesse Armendarez, Public Works Sergio Quiroz, Martin Celio, Michael Spring, Traffic Engineering Jeff Kim, Fontana Police Department Social Media Team Sgt. Kellen Guthrie, Officer Rich Guerrero, Officer Danny Romero, and Officer Jay Sayegh.

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### Lt. Keith Zagorin

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- Welcomed everyone who came out tonight.
- Tonight's meeting is a little different, in that we are trying something new. We are doing a Facebook Live Meeting. Questions will be taken from the audience in attendance as well as people watching on Facebook Live from home. The ones from home will be interacting with the Social media team throughout the meeting. This is a test case to see how this works out for future meetings.
- Thanked to Maribel Lopez, who is the principal of Dolores Huerta International Academy for opening up her school for us to host tonight's meeting.
- Sgt. Kellen Guthrie, Officer Rich Guerrero, Officer Danny Romero, and Officer Jay Sayegh are from the community outreach unit formally known as Crime Prevention, they are working the Facebook Live for this meeting.
- Introductions of City Department Representatives.
- Fontana is the 19<sup>th</sup> largest city within the state of California. The bigger we are the bigger the population, the more challenges we have. We do our best to try to address the public's concerns and we work really well with other departments to try to address your concerns in a timely manner.
- Most of the stats for 2018 have decreased:
  - Residential Burglaries down 32%
  - Vehicle Burglaries down 9%
  - Grand Theft down 10%
  - Grand Theft Auto down 2%
- We do have a high call volume at the Metrolink Station. It's an ongoing concern. We recently changed security companies there. A lot of calls are medical related though, not a lot of crime there.

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### Mayor Acquanetta Warren

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- We encourage you to get involved and watch out for each other because as we grow we can't expect the police to be everywhere at all times. Please start a Neighborhood Watch Group in your area.
- Join in on our community meetings and find out what services we can provide to you.
- We have a brand new website with lots of resources on there. So make sure you visit the webpage to get more information about the city. [www.fontana.org](http://www.fontana.org)

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### Questions

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Are the minutes to the meetings posted anywhere from past meetings?

- They are posted on our website.

**Last meeting we asked that someone from Code Compliance be in attendance and it doesn't look like anyone from that department is here. Is there an update on illegal vendors?**

- Lt. Zagorin advised with the changes in the state laws with regards to vending and the type of enforcement we can take, the city had to come up with a plan on how to handle them. The vendors will still need to have a permit with the city of Fontana as well as health permit with the county. If there is a particular location we need to be aware of, let us know.

**There were some issues of vehicles being parked on Palmetto along the side of the mobile home park. People would park vehicles for sale.**

- We followed up with that. The vehicles that were parked along there seemed to be associated with the mobile home park. The times that Lt. Zagorin drove by there were no cars for sale.

**How far does the city limit go? Is Valley and Cherry city?**

- Yes it is, but there is a county pocket in that area.

**Is Oleander and Valley within the city limits?**

- Yes it is city area. If there are additional questions about city geography talk to Lt. Zagorin after the meeting to determine if it is city or county area.

**The race is coming up in a couple weeks. There are potholes on Cherry and on Cherry from Valley they are resurfacing the street. Are they going to go all the way up to Foothill before the upcoming race?**

- The area near the speedway is county. That is a county project. They are going all the way to Whittram, so it will go from Valley to Whittram.
- The city of Fontana owns 610 feet north of Valley on the west side of the street. Everything on the eastside of Cherry is county until you get north of Arrow, the street just south of Foothill it turns to City maintained.
- We don't know if it will be completed before the race in a few weeks.

**Is there any progress on the speed lumps in the area of Encina, Tangelo, Tamarind, and Lombardy?**

- Jeff Kim with Traffic Engineering advised this area is currently going through the newly adopted Neighborhood Traffic management system. It is a petition based program. The first location was at the Encina, Tamarind, Tangelo, Lombardy area between Palmetto and Alder and San Bernardino and Marygold. We have already had a couple meetings with the residents in the area. The next step is to send out a postcard survey that requires 30% response from the residents in the area with 66% approval rate in order to move forward. That means a minimum of 30% of residents in that area need to respond and of that 30% 66% need to approve the plan in order to move on to get City Council approval and the installation started.

**So we are allowed to ask for speed lumps?**

- Yes, but speed lumps and speed bumps are different. Speed bumps are very narrow and pretty severe, you will most likely see those in malls or parking lots. Speed lumps are much wide and you can glide right over it. There is also a gap in between with speed lumps which will allow fire trucks to pass over easily.

**Asked what changed because as of last year they said Fontana wouldn't allow speed bumps in the city?**

- Last year the city council approved the Traffic Calming program to be used within the city. Speed Lumps (not speed bumps) are allowed within this program. The purpose of the program

is to bring the residents into the decision process of what could help their neighborhood. There are a lot of disadvantages of speed bumps.

**So that area is looking at another 6 months or so for the speed lumps to get installed?**

- Jeff Kim advised it will probably not be that long.

**How long does it take to get a signal light? At Ivy and Citrus, there are accidents at least 5 times a year for the last 37 years.**

- There are a lot of factors that goes into getting a light approved.
- Lt. Zagorin advised he doesn't recall going out so many times to that area for a traffic collision but doesn't anticipate installing a light being installed because it is so close to Foothill.
- Jeff Kim advised he will take a look at it and will get back to him.

**Have used the Fontana App a lot to turn in Graffiti. However, lately they haven't been responding so quickly.**

- For any City property, the graffiti should be removed right away. If the graffiti is on private property then the property owner is responsible to remove it.
- If it ends up the property is private property that is something Code Compliance can work with the property owner to have removed. It is ultimately their responsibility. We can address graffiti in a couple of different ways. We can look into it, if you have a specific area of concern.

**When will the city open the public parking lot by the library? Is it a parking structure for Miller Park?**

- The city is currently working on the parking lot expansion along Seville. It isn't a parking structure, it is only a parking expansion project along Seville. It will just be more street parking.

**What about where the police park, is that going to be public or just for police? Can people park where the police park behind the police department?**

- Yes the public can park there, we don't enforce any parking violations there.

**Are you the new Area Commander for Area 3? Are you going to leave in like a week?**

- Yes Lt. Zagorin is the new Area Commander for Area 3, however he will be reassigned and Area 3 will get a new Area Commander in about a month.

**Jerika and Brandon from Facebook: Concerned about mail theft, what is being done with mail theft?**

- We have many resources we can use including undercover teams. We try to establish a relationship with the post office. Technically it is a federal crime but the reality of it is if there isn't any witnesses, no video of the crime occurring, not much can be done. We suggest you get to know your neighbors, watch out for one another, and pick up your mail daily. If you leave your mail in your mailbox overnight, that is generally when we are seeing that crime happening. So make sure you take your mail out as soon as possible.

**Gloria from Facebook: Any Ideas on how to start a Neighborhood Watch program in your area? One of her concerns is that her neighbors are afraid to call the police.**

- Contact Community Policing Technician Amber Smith at (909) 356-7171 or [asmith@fontana.org](mailto:asmith@fontana.org) to get started.

**Since the city continues to grow, how are staffing levels at the police department determined? Is it by population? Is it by how many homes are sold?**

- Mayor Warren advised, we are currently looking into the importance of the 2020 Census. We also look at our budget and our ability to pay for officers. We also work with the State. We are

currently missing \$900,000 a year of vehicle license fees. We are continuing to go to Sacramento to try to fight to get that money back and once we get that back we will be able to fund more officers.

- It is vital to count everyone within the city so we can accurately have the right amount of police officers for our city with the 2020 Census.
- You are looking at one of the finest department's within the nation. They are able to get things done when others can't.
- It is all based on funding and we are constantly looking for funding.
- It is a constant struggle to keep the numbers we are allocated.
- We just had 7 officers sworn in but they still have to go through the training phase before they are out in the field on their own. We have 3 more coming out of the academy next month as well.

#### **What is being done about the homeless population?**

- It is a constant challenge. We have our Bike Unit whose primary task is to deal with the transient issues.
- With new state legislation, sometimes our hands are tied as to what we can and cannot do to address behavior that might not necessarily be criminal but influences quality of life issues and that's a constant challenge.
- We are using partnerships with local clergy to help address some of the population that wants help.
- Sometimes it is not as easy finding them a shelter and getting them off the street. Sometimes they have substance abuse issues, however, we continue to try to work and get them resources when possible.

#### **Is there a site that you can go on and find out what is going on in the neighborhood? I hear people talking about it.**

- Most neighborhoods use the Nextdoor app. It is really good at letting everyone in the neighborhood know what is going on.
- Officer Sayegh advised with the Nextdoor App it does not allow the police department to see what you as a community are posting on your Nextdoor. Please do not think that we monitor that site, if there is a crime and police officers are needed please call our dispatch. We cannot monitor that site.
- We can monitor our Facebook page and other social media such as Instagram.

#### **A couple of years ago the police department use to have a couple of officers who would oversee the prisoners who got out of jail and offer them resources so they do not reoffend.**

- We currently do not have that unit anymore. That is done mostly with county probation and our funds were allocated elsewhere.
- We have a good relationship with probation and we actually have a probation officer who is stationed in the police department.

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#### **Councilmember Jesse Armendarez**

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- Just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who came out tonight and expressed any issues they have.
- The Mayor and the city council hear your concerns and what we heard today was issues involving:
  - Vendors- We actually just established new guidelines for them.

- We do work closely with the County Area to work on the issues.
- Street sweeping issues-We talked about this 2 meetings ago. We have heard concerns, if we can get cars moved on a regular basis it would help with traffic flow, however, the problem is that today so many people have multiple cars. How do we address the issue yet still have compassion towards those who have 5 or 6 cars in their home?
- The lights- That is a traffic engineering issue
- Graffiti- Our policy has always been to have it removed within 24 hours but they are correct we do not remove graffiti from private property.
- We had the largest swearing in of officers at our last meeting. We will be having seven new officers out on the street, which shows our dedication to our public's safety.
- Homeless issues- We are committed to help those who want help. We have programs like our City Link, our Veteran's center and other organizations that will help assist us to combat this issue.

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### Meeting adjourned

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Next Meeting will be June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Fontana Senior Center at 6:30pm.