

# MINUTES

## Area 1 Community Meeting

*January 10, 2019 6:30pm | Summit High School* Area Commander Lt. Robert Moritz

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### In Attendance

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Mayor Warren, Councilmember Phillip Cothran, School Board member Adam Perez, School Board Member Matt Slowik, and Planning Commission Member Larry Myers, Code Compliance Sandra Pelayo, Animal Service Officer Andrew Canedo, Officer Sherwood, Public Works Sergio Quiroz, Traffic Engineering Jeff Kim and Dave Teater.

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### Lt. Robert Moritz

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- Thanked everyone for coming out tonight.
- Lt. Moritz advised he used to be the Area 2 Area Commander but has now been assigned to Area 1.
- Been a police officer for a total of 25 years, 22 of those in Fontana.
- Grew up in Mammoth Lakes.
- Growing up he always wanted to be a police officer, seeing a police officer he always had a sense of pride. So he started as a reserve officer for Mammoth Lake Police Department. Unfortunately they didn't have any paid position available so he looked at other police departments for openings.
- He was hired by Fontana Police Department and within 3 years became a k9 handler and fell in love with this community and has been here since.
- Fontana Police Department isn't an agency where we have a lot of laterals leaving to go to other departments. One reason for that is because the officers love the community and we do the best that we can to service this community.

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### Upcoming Events

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- January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and 11:30 am- State of the City Address-Tickets are on sale with the Fontana Chamber of Commerce
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off at Public Works Yard
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – Planning Commission Meeting
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> - City Council Meeting

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### Fontana Police Department Animal Services Officer Andrew Canedo-Coyotes

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- Has been with the Police Department for 9 years.
- We have a constant problem with coyotes in the area.
- When domesticated animals are attacked by a coyote, for the police department, that does not constitute a safety issue. A pet is considered property, so when a coyote is attacking it we cannot use force when a wild animal is attacking it.
- Coyotes are most active, hunting for food around dusk and dawn.
- Coyotes have no problem scaling a 6 foot brick wall.
- Coyotes try to avoid human contact as much as possible, however there are the ones who have adapted to their environment.

- Coyotes come into the area because there are resources for them. Food, water, etc.
- We recommend hazing as a way to deter coyotes from backyards and neighborhoods.
- Never run from a coyote.
- We need to instill fear into the coyote. You can do that by Hazing. Methods of hazing include:
  - Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote.
  - Noise makers
  - Throwing rocks or sticks or other objects at them
- Make sure you do not leave pet food or trash out which will bring rodents. Coyotes feed on those rodents and if they are in the area they will attract the coyotes.
- If you have small pets, under 15 lbs, do not leave them outside unattended.
- You can install Coyote Rollers along your wall
- Put your pet in a coyote vest.
- Mayor Warren advised people do not realize when we had that mountain lion in our city she made some comments online about getting rid of it and the next day she had representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at her door threatening to take her to jail if she does anything to that mountain lion. There is a special permit that residents can get to hunt a mountain lion if it is causing a problem on your property however there are certain rules and regulations that have to be followed. Residents have to realize that Coyotes were here first we moved into their area so we need to learn to live with them.

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## Questions

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- **Is all the building of new development that the city is doing pushing the coyotes into Neighborhoods?** It is one of the factors, however coyotes have been in the city for ever you just might not have seen them. Lt. Mortiz advised the biologist who came out last year advised that coyote behavior is ticking up lately because we are moving more and more into the coyotes territory but their habitat is everywhere around you. When you are at the park they are in the bushes.
- **Say you do all the hazing measures and the coyote does not run away, what do you do then?** ASO Canedo advised you should remove yourself from that area, go back into the house if it is in your neighborhood. However you are more likely to be bit by a domestic dog than a coyote. There are 39 million people in California and there has only been a couple who have been bit by a coyote. The vast majority of Coyotes are timid and it is very rare you will run into a coyote who wants to attack you.
- **Advised she has 5 coyotes in their neighborhood, they live south of Highland.** Lt. Moritz advised the biologist advised 1 female coyote can have 7-8 pups in a litter the most they have seen has been 17 pups.
- **Is there any way we can trap them and get the coyotes spayed and neutered?** ASO Canedo advised we do not have the authority to do something like that. The state would have to change the law. County Trappers only have the authority to set a trap on your property, if they were to set a trap in a field they would need to get the permission of the land owner to do so.
- **She is unable to let her dog outside at all because of the coyotes in her neighborhood.** ASO Canedo advised you can install hot wires or rollers along the wall of your property. Another option you have is to install a fully enclosed dog run. Lt. Moritz also suggested getting a bigger dog as a companion for the smaller dog.
- **Does the PD offer any training on using pepper spray?** Lt. Moritz advised the police department does not currently offer any training on how to use pepper spray but you should be able to get training from the retail store you purchase it from.
- **Noticed that attendance has dropped since the PD has started to move the meeting around.** Lt. Moritz advised we are trying to move the meetings to make sure we cover the whole area of Area 1 so we can

try to get new people involved. If you have specific issues in your neighborhood we can hold special meetings in the area or we can even get a Neighborhood Watch started in the area.

- **Wanted to thank the PD for their hard work.**
- **The street that Etiwanda High School is on there are no curbs or sidewalks.** As new development comes to the area they are required to install a curb and sidewalk, so those improvements will be completed once the development in that area is complete.
- **Lives in the area on Knox and Curtis just above the 210 freeway. Are there any plans of installing curb and gutter in that area?** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised a project like that is extremely expensive however it is placed on a list and prioritized. We will eventually get to it as we continue to apply for grants to get the work done.

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### Next Meeting

May 9, 2019 @ 6:30 pm at **Jesse Turner Center**