

CITY OF FONTANA FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: All attendees of the Area 1 Community Meeting

FROM: Lieutenant Carlo Granillo, Area 1 Commander

DATE: January 18, 2017

SUBJECT: AREA 1 COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2017

Community Policing Technician Amber Smith

- Welcomed everyone to the community meeting
- Informed everyone that Lt. Granillo was unable to attend tonight's community meeting. Sgt. Robbins is filling in for him.

Sergeant Robbins

- Welcomed everyone to the community meeting.
- Introductions: Community Services Melissa Darchuk, Public Works Sergio Quiroz, Officer Ryn, and Officer Passas.
- The area commander program is an ongoing commitment and dedication to the Fontana community, in an effort to improve law enforcement service to its citizens. With the program the city is broken up into 4 areas. Everything north of the 210 freeway is Area 1 which is what we are in tonight. Each area is assigned an area commander and your area commander for Area 1 is Lt. Granillo, he normally does these meetings; however, he was unable to be at tonight's meeting.
- Who Ya Gonna call- There were copies of this form on the table for anyone who would like to get one. This form has telephone numbers for almost every situation that might happen in Fontana. <http://www.fontana.org/DocumentCenter/View/1178>
- We had a presentation lined up for tonight but they had to cancel at the last minute so we will open it up to questions.

Questions and Concerns of the Residents of Area 1:

A lot of stuff is being reported on social media, so we are wondering if crime was going up?

It has gone up the last few years due to propositions which were passed that require early release for “non-violent” offenders. People who get arrested for the petty crimes now get lower jail time.

Is the police department adding headcount to deal with the rise in the crime and the early release?

We are adding no more than any other area. It is a statewide problem. We arrest the offenders but sometimes it can be within hours when they are let out and they go back to doing what they were doing.

With the new marijuana law, when and where can people smoke it?

It has to be inside your home, it cannot be in public.

When will officers arrive if your alarm is going off?

Officers will respond to an alarm call when the alarm is verified. The Fontana Police Department used to respond to about 9,000 burglar alarm calls each year and out of those calls 99.72% of them were false, costing taxpayers approximately a quarter of a million dollars in wasted police manpower and resources. Verified response is a program that requires the alarm or monitoring company to verify that there is a legitimate need for a police response to a location prior to the officers being requested.

Where is the highest concentration of crime in the city? We see a lot of mail theft reports in northern Fontana.

Center city usually has the highest in general crime; however, area 1 is high in mail theft and package theft.

Seen on social media that there has been a couple break ins in the area. Has anyone been arrested?

Our officers make arrests all the time. If you are speaking about a specific incident please get with him after the meeting so he can get the details and check into it.

Advised she feels that police activity in the area is very low. They never see police officers on their cameras patrolling the area. Crime has never been this bad until recently. Has the police department ever thought about putting a decoy car up in Hunter’s Ridge?

One reason you probably do not see a lot of police activity in the area is because you do live in a lower crime area. Police officers also tend to stay on the main streets rather than patrol inside neighborhoods, unless there is high call for service or extra patrol requests. We are always looking for suggestions.

What are some things we can do to protect our homes?

Officer Ryn advised security systems are good, learning how to protect yourself is always a plus, and calling the police department when you see something suspicious.

Noticed a lot more people who appear to be homeless near the gas station. Is there anything in place to help the homeless people in the area?

We do offer them assistance and services; however, sometimes they don't want our help. If you see someone who needs our assistance please let us know and we can send officers out.

Lives in the Avellino Community and his car was broken into twice. When he asked dispatch for extra patrol the dispatcher told him not to worry about it because it happens all the time.
Officer Ryn advised her car was broken into 3 times and she now uses the ring doorbell system on her driveway so she can get notifications when motion is detected and you are able to speak to whoever set the senior off if you want to. Lighting is also a great deterrent to keep the bad guys away.

Several years ago Rancho Cucamonga installed license plate collectors to their light poles. Does Fontana have any plans to do something like this?

We do currently have license plate readers on several of our patrol units; however, we don't have any on light poles, not sure if there are any plans for that in the future but it could be a possibility.

It would be nice to have City Council or Planning come to these meetings so they can hear our concerns. If they were to make our garages bigger or make the streets brighter it might help deter some of the crime that is occurring.

City Council is invited to the meetings as well as other departments. Tonight the Mayor as well as Councilmember Armendarez were scheduled to show up; however, for whatever reason they were unable to attend.

Advised they know a couple people whose homes were broken into while they were home and that has happened within the last month. What can they do, how do they keep the bad guy from coming into their house?

Dogs are a good deterrent, anything you can do to protect yourself is good, extra lighting, more locks etc. When a criminal got busted for residential burglary it used to be a big deal but it isn't like that anymore so the bad guys don't care like they used to.

Would like to make a suggestion that when the police department arrests someone if they can post their mug shot like some other cities do on social media.

If we have their mug shot we will include that in the press release which we already post on all the social media outlets.

How can we safeguard our house?

It can be something as simple as longer screws in the strike plate of the door that can help. Locks on the windows. Security alarm system is good as well. Extra lighting. Anything that could be an extra barrier for the criminal to try to get through.

With all the mail theft in the area lately has there been any arrests made?

Our officers make arrests on a regular basis. The suspects are usually taken to jail and after a few hours or a few days they are released.

There once was a substation at one of the shopping centers, is there any plans on bringing that back?

No there are no plans in the near future to bring the substation back.

In his neighborhood there is a home that is being run as an apartment complex. What can be done with that?

That would be a code compliance issue. You can call (909) 854-8020 to report it and have an inspector go out to check it out.

They have an LAPD Officer who lives on their street who has done more for them than any Fontana police officer has. They have a problem on Deerthorn and Maplewood, cars parking on the street who don't belong there etc. They called the Fontana Police officers out and they contact the gentleman in the vehicle and they allowed him to stay there.

Officer Ryn advised if the person wasn't doing anything illegal he can stay there. There could have been a number of reasons why he was sitting there, he could have been doing surveillance or something but if he wasn't doing anything illegal, there isn't much we can do.

Do you recommend for neighbors to do their own patrol in their neighborhoods? And are they able to restrain someone if they have to?

Yes you can do your own patrol if you would like, you can also start a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood. You can restrain someone if you are positive they are committing a crime however just keep in mind with reasonable force.

Advised they seen a camera on one of the intersections, was wondering what that was for?

It was a traffic engineering camera to monitor traffic flow.

She sees a lot of police cars near the overpass and at the park, are they usually looking for someone or are they monitoring traffic?

Not too sure, the officer could have been monitoring traffic, or he could have been writing a report.

There is a drug house on the street and it takes forever for police to come out. Last summer there was a huge party and the police officers made them feel like they were the bad ones for calling.

Who do they contact to get cameras on both entrances into Hunter's Ridge?

You probably would have to contact city council for something like. We currently do not have a program that does that.

We need to have officers patrol in front of the school. There is a huge problem with people double parking, parking in people's driveways, speeding etc.

We have our traffic officers on a rotation schedule because unfortunately it isn't only this school that has traffic issues it is pretty much all of them.

Are we up in murders?

In the last couple of weeks we have had 5 homicides, both ended with arrests. One was at a park in Heritage and the other was a family member who killed his family members down in the south end.

If we take pictures of vehicles in the red zone with the license plate numbers, can a letter be sent to them advising them not to be parking there?

We don't have the time or the man power to do something like that.

Can a resident call a tow truck themselves if they have a vehicle blocking their driveway?

No please just call the police department and let an officer handle it.

At the parks people are doing drugs in the bathrooms etc. The bathrooms are not being locked at night, which allows for more activity to occur there during the night.

Sergio Quiroz with Public Works advised they recently spoke with the contractor to make sure they lock the bathrooms at night. They are supposed to take before and after pictures when they lock the restrooms.

Can the gates be locked at the parks as well, to prevent anyone from entering the parks at least with a vehicle?

Sergio Quiroz advised he will have to find out about the gates.

THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017 AT D.W. LONG ELEMENTARY, 5383 BRIDLEPATH DRIVE, FONTANA, CALIFORNIA 92336 AT 6:30 PM.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA BEFORE MAY 3, 2017 TO:

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