

MINUTES

Area 4 Community Meeting

April 25, 2022 6:30pm | Mary Vagle Nature Center Area Commander Lt. Doug Imhof

In Attendance

Councilmember John Roberts, Councilmember Jesse Sandoval, City Manager Matthew Ballantyne, Deputy City manager Phillip Burum, Traffic Engineering Jeff Kim, Public Works Shawn Matejcek, Community Services Janette Solares, Officer Mundrick, Officer Bachman, Officer Goodland, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Lt. Doug Imhof.

Lt. Doug Imhof

- Welcomed everyone.
- The Community Meetings are held three times a year to provide the community with:
 - The proper way to identify problems.
 - Exchange information with the police department and other city departments.
 - Identifying effective long term solutions to issues within the area.
 - Also an opportunity to disseminate information regarding upcoming events.
- The Area Commander Program was created as an ongoing commitment to the Fontana Community, in an effort to provide a more effective police response to community issues. The City is broken up into four areas and the area below the 10 freeway from city limit east and west is considered Area 4.
- Crime rates for Area 4:
 - As expected COVID did have an effect on some of the stats.
 - Response time went up 18% for the whole city and is up 34% in area 4. That is a significant change.
 - Arrests increased 42% for the whole city and 49% for area 4.
 - Traffic accidents increased 23% for the whole city and only 3% in area 4.

Officer Mundrick and Officer Bachman, Traffic Unit

- Currently in the Traffic unit there is 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 6 motor officers, 4 community service officers, 3 DUI officers, and 1 commercial enforcement officer.
- The commercial enforcement officers' primary duty is to conduct commercial enforcement throughout the city of Fontana. This officer also works with CHP on commercial enforcement checkpoints.
 - San Bernardino and Cypress- a new traffic light was installed and is currently working.
 - The Citrus Widening Project just south of Slover has been completed.
 - Jurupa and Live Oak-Continues to be an issue. The poles were ordered in October. We were expecting to receive them in February, but we received a letter from the vendor that there was a delay, first they were delayed until April, now we are hearing July.
- Traffic Unit stats for the month of March:
 - 217 Traffic Accidents
 - 1300+ citations
 - 830 Commercial citations
 - 26 DUI arrests

- 234 abandoned vehicles
 - 2 MAIT (Major accident Investigation Team) Fatalities
 - 26 MAIT hours
- There are no truck routes that go by schools with the exception of Kaiser High School both Jurupa, Cherry and Slover are major truck routes.

Questions

- **In speaking about Commercial vehicles, does that include light commercial vehicles as well?** Yes it does, in California commercial vehicles are classified as anything over 10,000 lbs or more.
- **How often does the commercial officer patrol looking for commercial violations?** As of right now we have one commercial officer and that is all he does during his shift is patrol for commercial violations.
- **With the new warehouses being approved does the city anticipate the need for more commercial officers?** The police department has actually been approved for 12 new officer positions however the hiring process is a long process, from the point of being hired to going to the academy to being on training and being on the street off probation.
- **How often is the traffic officers down in beat 4?** Traffic Officers are in beat 4 daily.
- **With so much speeding in the area, are there any plans for speed bumps?** Jeff Kim advised we do have a speed hump guideline however they are primarily effective in residential areas. They can not be used on main throughfares.
- **Is there a speed threshold where a speed hump wouldn't be adequate?** Yes there are certain criteria which has to be met. It takes into consideration speed and traffic volume.
- **The traffic in the area is bad. The trucks are doing u-turns, going the wrong way, going across the center median. She has been cut off by trucks especially going by Amazon.** We currently have one officer who is dedicated to commercial traffic enforcement.
- **Are citations really a deterrent for these commercial trucks?** Officer Bachman advised yes they are a major deterrent. They are not like a normal class C drivers license driver, where you are allowed to take traffic school so that the point isn't on your driver's license there is no traffic school option for Commercial drivers, so if they get a ticket there will be a point on their license and after so many their license will be revoked and that is their livelihood, that's their money. Not only does that point on their license count in California but through the nation because with Commercial drivers the states do communicate for Class A drivers.
- **Maybe the answer to the commercial vehicle issues are that the area needs more signs. More signs, bigger signs saying this is not a truck route.**
- **830 citations which are commercial truck citations, that is a lot, and we still have a lot of empty warehouses. When the city approves warehouses are they planning to hire more officers with each approved project?** Councilmember Roberts advised yes that is always looked at when approving projects.
- **The barrier at Elm and Loyola has been very effective with off-roading however the parking is still an issue there.**
- **Thanked the city for installing the trash cans along the trails for the issue with dog poop.**
- **Advised he has had an issue with a neighbor's 13 year old driving a vehicle and he called on it and his neighbor got word that he was the one who called and started harassing him. Neighbor was also stealing gas and he reported it and nothing happened.** Lt. ImHof advised Officer Goodland will talk to him to get more information about the incidents to see if we can assist him.

- **What can be done about loud cars?** They can be issued a citation for modified exhausts which makes the vehicles loud, sometimes depending on what it is we can also tow them.
- **The locks on the gates at Elm and Loyola are missing.**
- **What are the fines for illegal fireworks?** They are \$2500 to \$10,000.
- **How much of the fines are actually collected?** Lt. ImHof advised he did not have that information.
- **Thanked the Police Department because they called regarding racing and donuts on Elm and Beech officers showed up and disbanded the cars however it would have been nice if they would have grabbed at least one to issue them a citation.**

Next Meeting

August 15th @ 6:30 pm, at Southridge Middle School (14500 Live Oak Ave)