

MINUTES

Area 1 Community Meeting

November 9, 2022 6:30 PM | *Sierra Lakes Elementary School* Area Commander Lt. Kellen Guthrie

In Attendance

Lt. Kellen Guthrie, Landscape Technician Jose Orozco, Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Code Compliance Supervisor Ryan Hale, Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil, PD Volunteer Blaine Lincoln, Community Services Celest Sanchez, Cpl. Luis Valenzuela, Cpl. Tyler Burton, Officer Adrian Garcia, and Community Policing Technician Amber Smith

Lt. Kellen Guthrie

- Welcomed everyone to the Area 1 Community Meeting.
- He is the new Area Commander for Area 1. He took over for Lt. Granillo. He has been with the Fontana Police Department for 17 years. He came to the department right after college.
- He has experience in multiple units within the Police Department such as Gangs, Narcotics, Community Engagement and is also a Use of Force Instructor.
- The Fontana Police Department has been working hard to remove illegal guns from our streets. We recently reached the 1,000 mark in firearm recovery this year on October 30th. As of today we have recovered a total of 1048 illegal firearms off the streets of Fontana. Just for comparison, last year in 2021, we recovered a total of 928 for the whole year.
- Catalytic Converter theft is on the rise. Not only here in Fontana but all over the nation. Cpl. Tyler Burton and Officer Adrian Garcia with our Rapid Response Team has a presentation on Catalytic Converters thefts. Since August there has been 116 Catalytic Converter thefts, with 27 of them in Area 1.

Events

- Sparks of Love Toy Drive on November 19th and 20th. The Universal Soccer League hosts a two-day soccer tournament held at Ralph Lewis Sports Park. Registration is required for participation as well as a donation of a new unwrapped toy with the value of \$10.00. The Fontana Police Department as well as the Fontana Fire Department attends the event and interacts with the kids and takes pictures.
- Drive Thru Low-Cost Pet Clinic-November 26th and 27th there will be a low cost pet clinic at City Hall. The clinic is setup as a drive-thru service. \$15 rabies vaccines are available. Other low-cost packages are available for your pet's needs.
- Christmas Lunch with Seniors-December 6th the Police Department will be participating in a Christmas lunch with seniors. This is a yearly event where the police department cooks lunch for the community senior citizens. The event will take place at the Fontana Senior Center.
- Tentatively the next Area 1 Community Meeting will be March 9th at Summit High School.

Rapid Response Team-Catalytic Converter theft

- Catalytic Converters are a device on your vehicle that is incorporated with the exhaust system that contains a catalyst for converting pollutant gases into less harmful ones. There are precious metals inside the converter which makes it extremely valuable to thieves.

- They are fairly easy to steal, just a couple of cuts underneath your vehicle and they can be gone within minutes.
- The suspects will recycle the catalytic convert for anywhere from \$50 to \$500 each.
- The problem with these thefts are that we are able to identify who is stealing them, however if we do not have a witness that they actually took the part off the vehicle then the District Attorney will not file charges on them. In 2021, we located a suspect who had over 600 at this house, however because this part is not serialized there was no way to know if those part were actually stolen. We have no way of knowing who those parts actually belong to.
- We suggest going to your local mechanic or you can do it yourself if you know how, but engrave your phone number on them, that way when they are stolen we are able to trace it back to the rightful owner and start prosecuting the people who are stealing these.

Questions

- **Are there specific cars that seem to be targeted more for the catalytic converters?** Yes, it seems like Prius' and Ford F150s are targets, however so are lifted large trucks because it is easy to get underneath them.
- **What is recommended for citizens if we catch them stealing a catalytic converter?** The best thing would be to be a good witness. If you can safely get a license plate and a good look at the person's face that would be great. In order for the District Attorney to prosecute, we need to have the victim say they say this person stole it.
- **Has anyone tried to use GPS chips on the catalytic Converter?** We are not aware of that however probably not due to the heat the converter gives off it might not be possible.
- **Is there anything being done on the Recycling Company end?** We have worked with surrounding agencies in doing compliance checks on the recycling companies to ensure they aren't accepting catalytic converters, however from what we have been told the turnover is very quick with those when they get them in.
- **Would like to commend the Police Department for their hard work.**
- **What is the current law to get a CCW?** You would have to go through the County of San Bernardino Sheriff's Office. There are classes you have to take and a process you have to go through. You can find more information here: <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/ccw-faq/>
- **What triggers a firearm investigation?** Officer Garcia advised usually we get citizen tips that we investigate. We also check to see if the person is a convicted felon because if they are they are not allowed to be in possession of any firearms or even live in a house that houses firearms. Then there are ghost guns, those are guns that are sold online usually around \$300, and you practically build them yourself. It is illegal to be in possession of one because they are not serialized, and they are hard to track when used in a crime. If you are making and selling ghost guns that is a federal crime. We also take firearms when there is a domestic violence situation.
- **There are a lot of traffic issues in the area, people are running red lights especially the left turn light at Sierra and Sierra Lakes Parkway.** Lt. Guthrie advised he has seen it happen and Cpl. Valenzuela advised the traffic unit will be taking a look at the problem at that intersection. Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised they try to adjust the timing of the lights often to make sure traffic is flowing properly however due to the red light at Augusta it is a very short distance from Sierra so at that intersection it is a little more difficult, but they will review it.
- **Coyotes are getting bad in the area especially behind his house along Colonial Drive. He called and spoke with Animal Control, they referred him to the department of Fish and Wildlife, but he decided to talk to the Watch Commander on Duty instead. He spoke with Sgt. Hale who advised he would call**

Fish and Wildlife and he wanted to know if there was an update on the Coyote situation? “Coyotes are smart adaptable canines that have learned to survive and often thrive in urban and residential areas. Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. In order to keep coyotes away from your property make sure to always keep trash, recycling and compost in a secured bin. Wait to put trash out until the morning of collection, clean your garbage and recycling bins with bleach or ammonia. Remove unsecured trash, human or pet food, and strongly scented items from your yard. Keep your doors and windows closed and locked when unoccupied and bring pets inside at night. You can also install motion-activated lights, noise or alarms. Remove any bird feeders from your yard, pick ripe fruit off trees and promptly collect fruit that falls. Also, trim ground level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.” <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>

- **At Turnberry/Pinehurst a stop sign is needed.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised we are currently surveying the area for a 4-way controlled stop.
- **On Augusta, from Colonial, both north and southbound it is hard to see and with the new construction more people are using Augusta to avoid Sierra or Citrus and going through the Sierra Lakes Community. How does Traffic Engineering determine whether an intersection needs a stop sign based on speed rather than volume?** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised they can survey the area and determine if the intersection warrants an all way stop, the survey that is taken is volume as well as speed. Lt. Guthrie advised if speeders are the issue that would be a police department issue and we can get the traffic unit in the area to do enforcement.
- **There are a lot of speeders in the area, people doing burnouts on streets etc.** Cpl. Valenzuela advised we have done 8 taskforces throughout the city regarding burnouts and speeders, when you email us or call us to complain about these issues it would help if we have a specific time they are usually in a specific area so we can target that area or if you know who it is that is doing the burnouts or have a license plate let us know and we can send officers out there to make an advisal. We have more speeding details scheduled to target racing.
- **What would we need to do to get speed bumps?** Dave Teater advised we get a lot of requests for speed humps throughout the city; however they can only be installed on residential neighborhood streets, they would not work on streets such as Augusta or Clubhouse and speed humps also increase the response time of emergency vehicles.
- **When will Duncan Canyon be a two-way street again? And at Cherry and Duncan Canyon there was a kid who was hit by a car as he was crossing the street to catch the bus. We need patrol to be up there as there are many speeders in that area.** Dave Teater advised Duncan Canyon should be opened up within the next couple of weeks. Cpl. Valenzuela advised he knows the exact area which was brought up and he will make sure to get out to that area again.
- **Summit and Pinehurst is also a big concern.** Dave Teater advised that intersection is currently under review to see if it warrants an all way stop control.
- **At Highland and Citrus there is a new shopping center opening up. It took them 5 lights in order to turn right from Highland onto Citrus. Is there going to be better control at that intersection when the shopping center opens up.** Dave Teater advised there are 2 problems with that intersection, the signal lights are too close together and the lack of coordination with Cal Trans. Cal Trans runs the lights going on and off the freeway and we have tried to coordinate with their lights however sometimes they make changes without letting us know so we are constantly monitoring that intersection to make changes when they do.
- **Advise there is a huge problem there because of the sign that you are not allowed to make right turns from 7-9 and 3-7. She usually waits but then has cars going around her to make the right turn.**

- **Asked if another stop sign could be installed along Augusta if no speed bumps can be installed.** Dave Teater advised if we overuse stop signs that could also create a larger problem in the area. The best thing to do is do enforcement from the officers.
- **Asked how Cypress got a stop sign when Pinehurst and Augusta have been problem for years even before Cypress was an issue.** Dave Teater advised those requests for Pinehurst and Augusta should be completed within a couple of weeks. We got the request for Cypress sooner than the other streets.
- **There are more lights along Sierra Lakes Parkway than there are along Summit maybe that might be the problem?** Yes, there are more lights along Sierra Lakes Parkway that is because with the development of the commercial establishments it was required for them to install the stop lights at no cost to the city. Along Summit that wasn't a requirement for the housing developments.
- **Since the recycling plant at Costco opened up, he has noticed an increase of homeless population in the area.** Lt. Guthrie advised he will let our MET Unit know. They handle all of our homeless problems. The homeless population has increased not only within the city but statewide it has become a huge problem.
- **Advised she has been an increase of homeless at the park near the school using the restrooms.** Lt. Guthrie advised if they are loitering, please call our dispatch and we can send an officer out there however if they are just using the restroom there isn't much we can do about that as just like any other citizen they are allowed to use the facilities but if they are loitering we can take care of that.
- **Where they live there were 3 huge marijuana grow houses and they didn't know anything about it.** Lt. Guthrie advised typically marijuana grow houses end up in the nicer areas and are usually rental properties. A lot of times we get notified of them by neighbors who suspect something weird is going on there.
- **If you think something is suspicious, do you call 911?** Lt. Guthrie advised you can call our dispatch at (909) 350-7700.
- **One night there was a car who hit her husband's car, which was parked on the street, he continued down the street, he ended up ditching the car and hiding in a bush. The officers didn't arrest the man, he was clearly drunk but wasn't arrested for it.** Lt. Guthrie advised there could be several reasons for that. We can't arrest someone if we have no witnesses to prove he was the one who was driving.
- **There is a Pilot Truck stop going in at Alder and Casmalia in Rialto. What is being done to ensure the trucks do not go through our neighborhoods.** Dave Teater advised it is a Rialto project, we can set weight limits on our streets so they can't go down them however we are hoping they will just go the shortest distance to the freeway, which would be right there off of Alder.
- **There is large tagging along the wall of the 210 freeway.** Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil advised she is aware of it and has already been in contact with Costco to have it removed. Code Inspector Supervisor Ryan Hale advised you can always report it to Public Works, if it is on city property they will remove it, if it is private property they will usually let Code Compliance know so the property owner can be notified to have it removed. You can also download the city of Fontana app "Access Fontana" and report it from the app. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/access-fontana/id434452811> or https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.wassabi.fontana&hl=en_US&gl=US&pli=1 For more information on the app you can visit: <https://www.fontana.org/3329/Access-Fontana>.

Next Meeting

March 9th @ 6:30 PM at Summit High School (Tentative)