

MINUTES

Area 1 Community Meeting

March 7, 2023 6:30 PM | *Summit High School* Area Commander Lt. Kellen Guthrie

In Attendance

Lt. Kellen Guthrie, Councilmember Phillip Cothran, Landscape Technician Martin Celio, Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil, Community Services Janette Solares, District Attorney's Victims' Advocate Sharleen Ormonde-Large, Officer Adam Sein, and Community Policing Technician Amber Smith

Lt. Kellen Guthrie

- Welcomed everyone to the Area 1 Community Meeting.
- He is the Area Commander for Area 1. He has been with the Fontana Police Department for 17 years.
- He has experience in multiple units within the Police Department such as Gangs, Narcotics, Community Engagement and is also a Use of Force Instructor.
- Due to the Drill team having competition this weekend we were moved from the Multipurpose room to the Staff Faculty Lounge. There was no screen in the faculty lounge to set up the PowerPoint presentation.

Events

- We have two affordable pet vaccine clinics coming up on March 18th and 19th and April 15th and 16th from 9am to 11am at Jesse Turner Center (15556 Summit Avenue).
- Fontana Police Department is hosting our annual Citizen Academy starting March 23rd. The Fontana Police Department's Citizen Academy is a free 10-day program that include topics such as air support, special operations, crime analysis, SWAT, Defensive tactics, Internal affairs, investigations, Crime scene investigations and K9 unit. The class will go into the details of how the police department works and at the end of the 10-day course you will be able to take a ride along with one of our officers. For more information, please visit <https://www.fontana.org/511/Citizen-Academy>.
- We will also be hosting a Blood Drive on March 29th from 10am to 3pm.
- Fontana Police Department is hosting a Special Needs Resource and Fun Fair on Saturday April 29th from 10am to 2pm at the Police Department.
- Our next community meeting will be July 13th at 6:30pm at Jesse Turner Center.

District Attorney Victims Advocate Sharleen Ormonde-Large

- She is part of the District Attorney's Office in the Bureau of Victim Services and is now assigned to the Fontana Police Department.
- They assist victims of domestic violence, juvenile crimes, stalking, assaults, elder abuse, human trafficking, rape, murder, vehicular manslaughter, DUI with death or injury, child abuse (physical/sexual), and gang violence.
- In 2008, the voters passed the Victim's Bill of Rights Act known as Marsy's law. Marcy's Law changed the constitution of California to provide general victims' bill of rights during criminal, juvenile, and parole matters. Within these rights the victims are to be reasonably protected from the defendant, to

prevent the disclosure of confidential information or records to the defendant and to be informed, upon request, of the conviction, sentence, place and time of incarceration, or other disposition and the scheduled release date of the defendant.

- Due to PC 13835.5 the victims' advocates are required to provide crisis intervention, emergency assistance, counseling resources and referrals, Victim Compensation Board claim assistance, court escort and support, court notifications, case status and disposition, property return assistance, employer notification, restitution assistance and orientation to the criminal justice system.
- The advocates can also provide optional services such as creditor intervention, employer intervention, childcare assistance, witness notifications, witness protection assistance, funeral arrangements assistance, transportation assistance, temporary restraining order assistance and crime prevention information.
- Also offer victim compensation claims for medical bills, counseling, loss of income, support loss, relocation, home security, funeral burial and crime scene clean up.
- In order for a victim to qualify for assistance the victim must be a California resident at the date of the crime occurred. Even if the crime occurred outside of California, a California resident is still eligible if they were a California resident at the time of the crime. The crime must be reported to law enforcement and cooperate with the law enforcement investigation. A victim of a crime also has 7 years to apply for services from the date of the crime.
- The Bureau of Victim Services also provides a K9 to assist children who were victims of a crime or possibly witnesses of a crime.
- Victim Services also hosts Camp Good Grief which is a 3-day camp for children and teens 10 to 16 years old who have lost a parent, sibling, or significant other due to murder or suicide. All costs are provided to the campers and free of charge. It is a partnership with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

Questions

- **There is a house on their street which the neighbors believed was involved with illegal gambling and prostitution. The house tends to have security, and they bus people in. It died down when there was a bust at a similar house in San Bernardino, however it seems to be starting again. What should the neighbors do if it does start up again?** Lt. Guthrie advised with situations such as this, these are a little more complex than what a regular patrol officer should handle. This would be a scenario for our Special Operations Unit to get involved with. So, if you start to see it getting started again you can always call and ask to speak with a watch commander. In this instance the resident was asked to speak with Lt. Guthrie after the meeting so he can get the information to pass it along to our Special Operations Unit.
- **In Sierra Lakes around Club House Drive cars are constantly speeding and doing donuts.** Lt. Guthrie advised if we could zero in on the time that it is happening, we will be able to get officers out to the location to do extra patrol.
- **He has lived here for 20 years and on Augusta there used to be a speed limit sign that lit up with the speed that cars were going.** Traffic Engineer Dave Teater advised the speed signs are no longer being manufactured and we can't get parts to repair them. What we have found is those signs do not provide a long-term effect on speeding, people tend to get used to them, and they are no longer efficient on speeding vehicles.
- **They have lived in the Sierra Lakes Area for the last 18 years and within the last 3 years there has been a change in parking throughout the community. There are semi-trucks parking along Forrest Oaks, people parking diagonally across the sidewalk into their driveway blocking the sidewalk. Bob with Code Enforcement was a great asset to the city but knows he has since passed on and was wondering if someone has replaced him?** Yes, Code Compliance has replaced him, Cynthia Gil is here tonight to represent Code Compliance. If there are particular houses that constantly block the sidewalk let Lt.

Guthrie know after the meeting so he can pass on the information to our traffic unit. Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised we also have a city-wide truck ordinance that would be able to deal with the semi-trucks that are parking in a residential area.

- **Lives in the new Mountain View Area and has an educational background and noticed a lot of warehouses being built and now their community is being surrounded by these warehouses which brings in diesel trucks who have higher emissions and ultimately brings danger to the surrounding community. Are there any plans in place to incorporate something like a community park or a space to balance out the warehouses with community family friendly options?** Councilmember Cothran advised he had major concerns with that development due to the 15 freeway and Sierra however he was out voted 4 to 1. Most of the industrial development going in on Sierra is zoned for industrial, the trucks are supposed to be going east on Sierra Lakes Parkway towards Rialto and not go west towards Sierra off of Sierra Lakes Parkway. The city is broken up in electoral districts and for that area Councilmember Peter Garcia is in charge. If you have concerns, you can always contact him to let him know. As for parks/gardens, we do have a plan for a 7-story apartment building to be developed on the northwest corner of Summit right across from the high school and the developer is in agreement to develop a community garden where the high school kids can go over and learn about agriculture and provide fruits and vegetables to the community.
- **How long will it be until we see a new middle school in the area because Wayne Ruble is extremely overcrowded.** Councilmember Cothran advised when we have new developments coming in especially residential, we always contact the school district to let them know we are expecting so many families within the area so they can start planning their development of new schools to cover the area, sometimes they listen, sometimes they don't. Mars Serna is your School Board Representative make sure to reach out to him to voice your concerns. As of right now we don't have any firm dates of when a school will be developed.
- **What is happening with the commercial mixed-use plan Ventana with the hotel?** Councilmember Cothran advised the developer has abandoned the plan for the hotel, but the development will be a Tuscan Italian theme with mixed use commercial on the bottom, residential on top and city officials currently have a meeting with Trader Joes on March 23rd to hopefully get them to our city. It will look more like a shopping center than industrial.
- **The vacant lot on Highland and Sierra, knows Walmart was supposed to be developed there but is there a way new constituents in the area can force the plan to change?** Councilmember Cothran advised that land is owned by Walmart and because they have owned it for so long there is no way the city can try to get it back or assume the property in eminent domain. Walmart still has plans on putting a Super Walmart at that location, there were some questions after COVID if they were still going to develop there however, they have decided to keep the plans for that location for their Super Walmart.
- **On Cherry at San Sevaine just under the 15 freeway it is turning into a truck stop with trucks parking there for several days.** Councilmember Cothran advised part of Cherry at that location is the city of Fontana's, the other part is Rancho Cucamonga, however, he just spoke with the Rancho Cucamonga's representative and was informed that Rancho Cucamonga just abandoned Cherry, East, and Etiwanda as truck routes so that will make it easier for us to enforce truck violations in that location.
- **Heard there are supposed to be 2 new schools in Casa Grande along with a modernization of Sierra Lakes Elementary. When will the new high school be developed?** Councilmember Cothran advised he does not know.
- **There is a rumor going around Sierra Lakes that the Golf Course is being sold for development.** Councilmember Cothran advised as far as he knows they are doing just fine and will not be closing. He knows during the time of COVID there were discussions about closing down however since then things have turned around for them and they are doing just fine.

- **What about vendors, there seems to be a lot of them. Some at Knox/Curtis, are they allowed?** Code Compliance Cynthia Gil advised they are not allowed; we are currently trying to tackle the problem. We give them notices and the 2nd time we can take their stuff however most of these are businesses from LA and they end up sending different people out here all the time which makes it hard to enforce. Then Code Compliance is also dealing with a lot of pro-vendor activist which is making it unsafe and difficult to enforce our city laws.
- **With the new pedestrian law that went into effect in January, what is being done with kids because especially around the school they just walk out into the road.** Lt. Guthrie advised we can't enforce it anymore; we might be able to get the schools to educate the kids more about road safety when crossing the street.
- **Is there anyway the city can come up with a middle ground for the vendors, such as a place where they can sell, like the farmers market?** Code Compliance Cynthia Gil advised even if the city was to do something like that these vendors don't care, we try to provide information to them to be able to legally be a vendor and they refuse to take the steps to get the permit they need. They want 100% profits and don't want to pay the city for the permit or go through the process for health permits. Like mentioned earlier, a lot of these vendors are LA restaurants sending their employees out here to San Bernardino County, a lot of times these people they send are new to our country and are possibly paying off their debt for their crossing.
- **On Augusta the sidewalks are lifting.** Dave Teater advised if you know the exact location, we can get them fixed. Councilmember Cothran advised we also have a sidewalk rehabilitation program which will start the 3rd quarter of this year, we had someone go throughout the whole city to inspect the sidewalks and document which ones needed to be repaired.
- **What about resurfacing streets.** Councilmember Cothran advised streets should be resurfaced every 7-8 years, it used to be every 15 years but that was recently changed.
- **Is there an ordinance regarding taking a 3-4-bedroom house and changing it into a 7-unit temporary rental property?** If they did the construction subdividing without permits that is something Code Compliance can look into. Code Compliance Cynthia Gil advised the City of Fontana does not currently allow short term rentals such as Air Bnb. Also, there is a limit to how many strangers a homeowner is allowed to rent to. The limit is 2.
- **Does the police department have a substation?** We used to have a substation near Kohl's however the owner took it back. Currently the only substation we do have is down in the south end of town.
- **Michael Townsend from Assemblymember Eloise Reyes Gomez' office introduced himself.** Stated her new office is now in San Bernardino on Vanderbuilt. He was in attendance of the meeting to see what the community needs are and if you ever need to get a hold of him, he can be reached at Michael.townsend@asm.ca.gov.
- **Advised they have lived here for a year and half, and this is by far the best police department in any of the communities in which they lived in and wanted to thank the police department for all the hard work.**
- **With the uprise of the speeding vehicles and donuts in the neighborhoods has the PD ever considered a mobile surveillance camera system in the high trafficked areas so that the camera might deter the speeding and donuts from happening.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised the cameras the city has are fairly new and we are currently exploring options of how and where we can use them.
- **How about using the cameras for the 4th of July to catch the people lighting illegal fireworks?** Councilmember Cothran advised we are currently working with the San Bernardino County Fire Department to get drones to fly around the city to pinpoint where people are setting off illegal fireworks and hopefully, we will be able to mail them the citation when we see the violations.

- **Is the City of Fontana ever going to have an ordinance making fireworks illegal?** Lt. Guthrie advised we currently do have an ordinance regarding illegal fireworks. Fireworks that shoot up into the air are considered illegal fireworks. Councilmember Cothran advised several years ago the city council wanted to ban all fireworks however, it was taken to a ballot measure and the measure passed by 93% to keep the fireworks, so the legal fireworks are here to stay but it does make the enforcement on the illegal fireworks more difficult. Lt. Guthrie advised he has worked plenty of 4th of July's and it is by far the most stressful times.

Next Meeting

July 13th @ 6:30 PM at **Jesse Turner Center (15556 Summit Ave)**