

MINUTES

Area 2 Community Meeting

March 16, 2023 6:30 PM | Almeria Middle School Area Commander Lt. Adam Clabaugh

In Attendance

Lt. Adam Clabaugh, Landscape Technician Sergio Quiroz, Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Public Works Shawn Matejcek, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Manager Sandra Pelayo, Community Services Celeste Sanchez, Corporal Tom Moore, and Officer Neil Bachman

Lt. Adam Clabaugh

- Welcomed everyone to the Area 2 Community Meeting.
 - Had all of city staff introduce themselves.
 - Advised we have 2 presentations tonight one from the District Attorney's Victims Advocate and one from our Traffic Corporal regarding DUI checkpoints.
 - We recently got a new Chief of Police. Chief Green will be retiring at the end of the month and Chief Dorsey will be stepping in. He has been with the police department for approximately 31 years.
 - We currently have about 20 officer positions open. We have approximately 200 officers currently and our priority is patrol. As of right now, our minimum staffing on patrol is 10 officers, usually Saturdays we have more officers on patrol. We are one of the cities with the lowest officers per capita around.
 - We offer an explorer program which gets kids prepared for law enforcement if that is the field they would like to go into. We have many officers who have come from our explorer program.
 - We had a homicide recently however, it was solved fairly quickly, and an arrest has been made. It wasn't a random act; it was a family issue.
 - Catalytic Converter theft remains up. We are currently working several leads of groups who are stealing these within our city.
 - Mail theft is up as well.
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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.

- They have a Crisis Response team that consist of 30 members that will be deployed in times of a crisis such as the 2015 San Bernardino attack.
- 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.

DUI Check Points- Corporal Tom Moore

- He is the corporal in the Traffic Unit at the police department.
- The Traffic Unit does about 15 DUI checkpoints throughout the year which are funded by the Office of Traffic Safety with the State of California.
- Checkpoints are legal per the California Vehicle code. There have been court cases that helped establish the current guidelines for today's checkpoints.
- The location of the DUI Check points depends on many factors, some being DUI arrests and/or accidents.
- Our next DUI check point is March 18th.
- We do not publish the location, but you can always call and find out where it is. The next one will be on Foothill/Mango.
- We average one to two DUI arrests per checkpoint.
- We want to let people know we are out there conducting theses so maybe it will deter people from driving while intoxicated.
- Recently the traffic unit received a complaint about someone using their motorcycle along the trail. He advised his unit was able to catch that guy and issued him a citation.

Questions

- **Can the information about the victim's advocate be found on the city's website?** Currently the information is on the District Attorney's website but not the City's website.
- **Does the department legally have to announce a DUI Checkpoint?** Cpl. Tom Moore advised yes, per case law we have to submit a press release stating that we are holding a DUI checkpoint with the date and time, but we don't have to provide the location in that press release.
- **What is the frequency that the DUI checkpoints are held?** Cpl. Moore advised it is about 1 or 2 a month. We do about 15 a year.

- **What is going on with all the homeless along Foothill?** Lt. Clabaugh advised homelessness is a huge problem, not only in Fontana but throughout the whole state. One of our goals is to increase our MET Unit. Those officers are the ones who handle the majority of transient calls. The city is currently building a shelter on Arrow and Citrus which City Link will be assisting with.
- **The homeless issue is really bad at Citrus and Foothill.** Lt. Clabaugh advised unfortunately if they are at the gas station on the corner there isn't much we can do. The owners does not want us to enforce any trespassing at the location. We do what we can, we provide them with resources to help them get back on their feet but the truth is some of them do not want the help.
- **Statistically speaking, do these homeless shelters attract more transients to the city?** Lt Clabaugh advised he doesn't know the statistics on it but we are doing what we can. There is so much money to assist with the homeless issue but it come down to that some of them not wanting the help.
- **Her neighbor walks the neighbor and advised at Walnut and Mango there is a 3 way stop and people constantly do rolling stops at that location. Lurelane westbound from Mango Ave, people turning right onto Mango Avenue fail to stop at the stop sign and almost hit pedestrians and others. Walnut and Mango is a huge problem.** Lt. Clabaugh advised our traffic officers will take note of it and check it out.
- **The shopping center at Sprouts on the weekends there are street racers who meet up there.** Cpl. Moore advised we are aware of that location, and we have also started doing a street racing detail throughout the city, which is mostly on the weekends.
- **There is a huge problem coming from AB Miller in the afternoon at Citrus and South Highland. There are no right turns during certain time periods and people do not abide by it. People tend to lay on their horns for her to turn while she is waiting for the light turn to turn green. People are getting aggressive in that area, it is a huge mess.** Traffic Engineer Dave Teater advised there are two issues with that location. First the on-ramp signals are too close to one another, and second Cal Trans maintains the signals going on to the freeway and they refuse to coordinate with us so we have to try our best to coordinate with them. We have a plan to add one lane to the northbound lanes which will serve as a right turn only lane to get onto the freeway eastbound however that plan is still several years out from getting started. Cpl. Moore advised he will get her information after the meeting and will advise the traffic officers of the concern so they can address the enforcement side. Dave Teater also advised he will review the time restriction.
- **There is a problem at Miller and Almeria when school lets out. Parents block the street, they park on both sides of the street.** Traffic Officers will be notified.
- **Thanked Traffic Engineering for the yellow arrows along Baseline.**
- **Is there a difference between patrol and traffic units?** Our traffic unit has about 10 motor officers, and a couple of DUI cars which mainly work in the evening, it also has a commercial enforcement officer and they respond to primarily traffic related calls. Patrol officers tend to only respond to calls coming in through dispatch which are not traffic related. Patrol officers can issue citations however, if they are on their way to a call they might let some minor traffic violations slide.
- **At Dorothy Grant Elementary, there are signs that during certain times there are no left turns. Who is responsible for putting those signs up?** Dave Teater advised it is usually the city, due to the request from the school, in order to keep traffic flowing during the hours of the start of school as well as when kids are let out.
- **Who would enforces those violations around the school?** It can be School PD or our patrol officers or traffic officers.
- **Are there any method to control modified exhausts around the city?** Officer Bachman advised any modification done to an exhaust within the State of California is considered illegal and can be cited for such.

- **What about getting speed bumps?** Dave Teater advised speed humps help control speed however, create other problems as well as extended response times from emergency personnel plus the cost of maintenance and increased noise. We would only install them in residential areas but as for a long-term solution they are ineffective.
- **Sultana/Foothill and Sultana/Miller cars are always speeding, when will Beech be opened to through traffic?** Dave Teater advised he is not sure because it was recently postponed by council.
- **Sultana and Miller there is a lot of speeding especially in the mornings because it is a straight away and the only stop sign is at Beech.** Lt. Clabaugh advised he will let patrol know to keep an eye out for it.
- **On Foothill just past Sultana before Hemlock, he has lived there for 17 years and there are so many people in that area and now they are building an apartment there, what is the plan to help traffic flow when that apartment building is completed.** Dave Teater advised he will have to investigate the project and see what the plan is to deal with the traffic issues the project will create.
- **Is there anything that can be done with the trucks that put extra lights on their vehicle and it is almost blinding to other vehicles.** Officer Bachman advised extra lights on a vehicle is a vehicle code violation. They are only supposed to have the headlights and amber lights all the other extra color of lights are not allowed, and the owner can receive a citation for it.
- **Fontana 311 is another way residents can report things within the city.** <https://www.fontana.org/3329/Fontana-311>
- **What is Code Compliance and what do they do?** Code Compliance Manager Sandra Pelayo advised Code Compliance enforces the city municipal code, housing code, and building code. In the next couple of weeks, we will be starting our Weed Abatement Season, so please make sure your property doesn't have any weeds, especially with the rains we have had the weed season is going to be bad. If you do get a weed abatement notice, please make sure you remove all weeds from your property because if our inspector goes back out after the allotted time and there are weeds on the property a warrant can be issued to have the city contractor remove the weeds at the expense of the property owner. The biggest problem Code Compliance is currently facing at the moment is vendors. The city of Fontana does allow vendors however, they have to have the proper permits and approval from the health department and many of them don't.
- **What about the weeds underneath the solar panels at the school, that field is a mess?** Sandra Pelayo advised we can't enforce on certain properties and unfortunately the schools are one of those. We can notify them that it needs to be taken care of, but we can't allow our contract on the property if they don't clean up the property. To submit a complaint, you can download Fontana 311 and report it on there.
- **What is the response time for a code compliance issue?** Sandra Pelayo advised it depends on the situation and what the violations are.
- **In regards to mail theft, he ended up catching someone stealing their mail on camera and nothing was done.** Lt. Clabaugh advised we do catch them all the time, we need to you to call when the crime is occurring. If you catch the crime on camera we can use that to prosecute the suspects. The Ring cameras help with real time videos to our officers.
- **Heard the bridge over Foothill is going to be moved.** Dave Teater advised the plan to relocate the bridge because it is historical in nature and raise Foothill Blvd. We are currently working on the design and trying to get grants to get it done, however it will be a while before that project is started.

Next Meeting

July 27th @ 6:30 PM at Heritage Intermediate School (13766 South Heritage Circle)