

MINUTES

Area 3 Community Meeting

April 3, 2023 6:30 PM | *Palmetto Elementary School* Area Commander Lt. Chris Tusant

In Attendance

Lt. Chris Tusant, Utilities & Streets Supervisor Rob Rigby, Landscape Technician Jose Orozco, Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Community Services Celeste Sanchez, Officer Parsons, Sgt. VanTuinen, Code Compliance Cynthia Gil, Public Works Shawn Matejcek, Police Volunteer Ruthie, Chief's Round table Committee Kylene, Jessica, and Carol.

Lt. Chris Tusant

- Welcomed and thanked everyone to the Area 3 Community Meeting.
- He is the newly assigned Area 3 Commander.
- He has been with the Fontana Police Department since 2006. He started in Colton and has been in law Enforcement for 23 years.
- In his time with the Fontana Police Department, he worked as an officer in the Narcotics Unit from 2007-2009 and from 2009-2011 he worked with a LA Sheriff narcotics Taskforce. Then in 2012 was promoted to Corporal where one of his jobs was to create our Rapid Response Team due to AB 109. In 2016, he was promoted to Sergeant where he was the supervisor in patrol, Gangs, Helicopter, Field Training, Internal Affairs, Administration, and also helped create the Mobile Field Force Command which dealt with protests and riots. Now in 2023 he was promoted to Lieutenant where he is currently the Watch Commander for Team 3 which he works weekday graveyard, however in May he will be going to weekend graveyard, but he is still in charge of the Helicopter program and Area 3 Commander within the Police Department.
- What can you expect from him as your Area 3 Commander:
 - He is proactive.
 - He is transparent.
 - He welcomes insight.
 - He is a big believer in results.
 - All of us working together is a partnership we need to work towards.
- We are always open for feedback, let us know when we are doing good and let us know when we have done something wrong.
- Crime at a Glance:
 - Crime against a person
 - December 72
 - January 84
 - February 81
 - Some of those crimes include:
 - Homicide 0
 - Sex Offences 5
 - Aggravated/Simple Battery 73
 - Human Trafficking 0
 - Crime against property

- December 141
- January 140
- February 122
 - Some of those crimes include:
 - Robbery 7
 - Burglary 10
 - Larceny 38
 - GTA 18
 - Arson 1
 - Vandalism 14
 - Forgery 8
 - Embezzlement 3
 - Extortion 0
 - Bribery 0
 - Stolen property 22
- Crime against society
 - December 80
 - January 107
 - February 106
 - Some of those crimes include:
 - Drugs 44
 - Paraphernalia 47
 - Gambling 0
 - Pornography 2
 - Prostitution 0
 - Weapons 13
 - Animal Cruelty 0
- Top 10 Calls for Service
 - 415 Transients 271
 - 415 Subject 250
 - Advisals 130
 - Suspicious Circs 125
 - Animal 118
 - Area Check 94
 - 415 Domestic 84
 - Suspicious Subject 78
 - Traffic Accident Non-injury 73
 - Dead Animals 59

	January	February
Calls for Service	4193	3868
Priority 1 Response Time	4:52	4:26
Group A offenses	331	309
Crimes Against Person	84	81
Crimes Against Property	140	122
Crimes Against Society	107	106

Reports Taken	776	683
Arrests	281	253
Traffic Collisions	125	110
Injury	24	28
Non-injury	101	82

- Recently we started using what is called Live 911. This system allows officers in the field to livestream 911 calls directly from their unit as the call is coming in. This technology has allowed officers to respond to 911 calls a lot faster than in the past. The officers in the field are allowed to listen to the 911 call in real time as it is coming into our dispatch center.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Easter Eggs-travaganza- April 8th from 10am to 12pm at Cypress Center, Don Day Center and Jesse Turner Center.
 - Summer Camp-Registration opens up on April 1st.
 - Mary Poppins Jr- April 21st to 23rd at the Steelworkers' Auditorium
 - All events can be found on the city website at fontana.org.
- Chief Billy Green recently retired. He was one of the best leaders he has ever worked for and better than his leadership was his heart. Chief Mike Dorsey is now the Chief of Police, and he is remaining dedicated to Community relationships, service, protection and accountability.

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. Suicide was recently added to the list of crimes the advocates are allowed to offer services for.
- 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.

Questions

- **In regard to the Live 911, what if you use your cell phone to call 911. She has been told that sometimes if she is calling 911 it might not always get to the Fontana Police Department.** Lt. Tusant advised it depends on your location. The call goes based off the cell towers your phone is binged off of. It gives a general location based off 3 cell towers. If you are close to the County area you might get San Bernardino County Dispatch or if you are close to the freeway you might go to CHP.
- **When was Live 911 first used? Was wondering why the Chief's Roundtable committee wasn't aware of the program.** Lt. Tusant advised it is fairly new, we started using it about 3 weeks ago.
- **Where does the funding for the Victims Advocate come from?** Sharleen advised the program is totally grant funded. Her pay and also the victims compensation benefit all come from grants.
- **Can you speak on the officer shortage?** Lt. Tusant advised the officer shortage is currently statewide. We currently have 19 vacancies for officers. We should be around 250 officers due to our population, however we are currently under 200. When we lose an officer, it is immediate and when we hire one it usually takes anywhere from 18 to 24 months before that officer is out on his own. We currently have 8 in the academy, which will be out soon and in our Field Training program. If we get a lateral that process is a little quicker, however, that officer will still have to go through training to know our policies and procedures and learn our city compared to how they used to do things at their previous agency. Our recruiting division is very busy, and we do have high standards. We don't just hire anyone. Usually if we get about 300 applicants only 2 or so make it through the whole process. It is tough but we want only the best.
- **How many police departments are in Fontana?** Only Fontana Police Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff Fontana Station who has jurisdiction over the county pockets within Fontana.
- **People park blocking her driveway where she sometimes has to go over the curb to leave her house. One time she left a note asking that person nicely not to park there, she also took a picture of their license plate. Wanted to know if she should not have done that?** Lt. Tusant advised you can do that or you can also call our dispatch to have an officer go out and we can issue them a citation for blocking the driveway.
- **What is Area 3?** The city is broken up into 4 areas. Area 3 is everything from Foothill Blvd to the 10 freeway, everything in between Rancho and Rialto. Area 1 is everything north of the 210 freeway. Area 2 is the 210 freeway to Foothill Blvd. Area 3 is Foothill to the 10 freeway and Area 4 is everything south of the 10 freeway.
- **Wanted to thank all the officers for their hard work on the drug house on Tangelo. The house has been recently rehabbed and is currently on the market to be sold.**
- **What is being done with the homeless in the area. Concerned with San Bernardino/Alder. It seems like more and more stuff is showing up there, which we are also starting to see more tagging.** Lt.

Tusant advised we have seen an increase of the transient population throughout the city. Sgt. VanTuinen advised we are doing what we can. His team, the MET Team's, primary duty is to deal with the transient population. The MET team works closely with probation and behavioral health as well as our COAST Team who deals with mental health issues and also with SWAG which is a company that does outreach for homeless trying to get the population all the resources they would need to get back on their feet. The problem is sometimes those people do not want the help. He advised he knows the woman at San Bernardino and Alder and has had many dealings with her, she doesn't want help and we can't force her to take the help or the resources when she doesn't want them. The problem is in California a lot of laws have been changed, decriminalizing lots of things that we use to take action on in the past. The city is doing what we can, but our problems are only getting worse due to the state legislation. The city is even building a resource center where everything will be inhouse, from the shelter to the medical help for substance abuse etc.

- **Where is the shelter going to be located?** Sgt. VanTuinen advised it is currently being built on Citrus and Arrow.
- **The person at San Bernardino and Alder has taken over the whole bus stop.** Sgt. VanTuinen advised he is well aware of her, however, in order for the police department to take enforcement actions, we would have to get that request from the bus transit company, and they currently do not want her arrested. She is comfortable there because people feel sorry for her and bring her things.
- **Does the police department currently work with Kaiser regarding their prescription writing and patient dumping, if they could provide the patients with social services before they are release that might help?** Sgt. VanTuinen advised we do work with Kaiser often, but they are in the same boat. They can't force someone to get help. Most of the time the patients just refuse treatment and walk away.
- **Cynthia Gil with Code Compliance advised they have also been dealing with a lot of transient related calls.** For example, Tom's burgers on Sierra. It is constantly being broken into by transients, luckily another restaurant is going in there very soon but when a transient breaks into places such as that, it takes inspectors away from other issues to board up the properties and the property owner is usually billed for it. She also stated Weed Abatement season is starting tomorrow. Inspectors will be looking for weeds on properties. They will be looking at the front, side and backyard (if visible from the street). If you have weeds on your property, you will probably be getting a notice and you will have 30 days to have the weeds removed. The inspectors are looking for weeds and trash. If you get a notice and you need an extension please contact the inspector, they will be able to give you a 14-day extension to have the weeds removed. On the notice you will also see a hearing date, you do not need to go to this unless you want to. The notice will be mailed to anyone who has weeds on the property.
- **What is being done with sidewalk vendors?** Code Inspector Cynthia Gil advised street vendors are a huge problem. We currently hired 2 contract employees whose primary duty is to deal with the street vendors. We ask the public not to support these vendors because it can be very dangerous, a lot of times their food is not properly transported or stored, it is not sanitary, they touch money and don't wash their hands and are handling food. A lot of times these vendors are participating in human trafficking because these people who are working are paying off their debt for coming to the US. Our inspectors have been targeted by activist, they have vandalized our city vehicles etc. They have people who will watch out for the inspector going out.
- **Are street vendors allowed if they are on private property?** Code Inspector Cynthia Gil advised no they are not even allowed on private property. The property owner can be issued a citation for allowing it. The only way a vendor is allowed is if they have the proper permits from the city and the County Health Department. Cynthia advised the city does currently allow and has permitted 1 vendor who sells tacos de canasta because they are prepared differently.

- **How can someone tell if a vendor is legit or not?** Code Inspector Cynthia Gil advised they would have the proper permits issued by the city as well as the county health department.
- **Advised the San Bernardino County permit is hard to obtain due to the all the requirements the county requires, and it is confusing.** Code Inspector Cynthia Gil advised she will get her in touch with the county representative if she has any questions regarding the County permit process.
- **They City of Fontana has grown tremendously. It was never meant to accommodate 200,000 plus people.** Everyone around here has about 10 cars per family. If you drive along San Bernardino Avenue and Juniper Avenue there are signs for no parking, but people park there continuously especially around the apartment communities. People are speeding along Marygold which is a very small street. Why are no parking signs installed when they are not being enforced? The speed bumps along Tangelo are useless. They City council lets developers come into our city without the consideration of what it will do to our infrastructure. Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised we have a lot of older apartment communities who at the time they were built didn't take into consideration the number of vehicles that are on the road today. They were not developed with enough Onsight parking for the tenants which then pushes the tenants to park out on the street. Now the state is allowing people to build an additional Dwelling unit on their property which will also bring more vehicles into the neighborhoods. The most we can do currently is enforcement, however, if they are parked illegally there is not much that can be done.
- **The yellow flashing lights in the pavement at Kaiser have been non-functional and it is very dark in the area.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised those yellow flashers in the ground have been a maintenance nightmare especially in that area due to safety concerns. At this time those flashers will not be replaced.
- **That area is very dark because there is a lack of light in the area.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised there is currently overhead lighting in the area however he will look into it to make sure it is adequate for the area.
- **When kids are let of school it is a traffic nightmare, parents are double parking and just creating a problem around the school.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised schools, especially older ones were designed with the idea that kids would walk to school so there is not an efficient design to the pickup and drop off areas within the school.
- **The new signal for Northgate shopping center is not working with the San Bernardino Avenue light. When the San Bernardino Avenue light turns green the Northgate light turns red causing a massive backup along Sierra.** Dave Teater advised Traffic Engineering was against the light there at Northgate because it was too close to the San Bernardino Avenue intersection, but they were overruled, and the light was installed. He will take a look at how it is functioning to see if adjustments can be made to help traffic flow better.

Next Meeting

August 7, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Cypress Elementary School (9751 Cypress Ave) ****Location is tentative upon approval****