

MINUTES

Area 3 Community Meeting

December 5, 2022 6:30 PM | *Fontana Senior Center* Area Commander Lt. Keith Zagorin

In Attendance

Lt. Keith Zagorin, City Manager Matt Ballantyne, Utilities & Streets Supervisor Rob Rigby, Landscape Technician Martin Celio, Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Community Services, Officer Martin Diaz, Mayor Acquanetta Warren, and Councilmember John Roberts

Lt. Keith Zagorin

- Welcomed and thanked everyone to the Area 3 Community Meeting.
- One of the major issues Area 3 is currently dealing with is increased homelessness. We are constantly trying to find innovative ways to deal with this issue. Once we are fully staffed we will be able to expand our Multiple Enforcement Unit to 7 days a week. Our Multiple Enforcement Unit currently handles the majority of our homeless calls for service. The majority of the issue seems to be in our area, Area 3.
- As a reminder: Please always be aware of your surroundings. Take your purse with you when you exit your vehicle to go into a place such as the gym. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle unattended. A lot of these vehicle burglaries are preventable.

Questions

- **Why do you think there are so many unhoused individuals?** Lt. Zagorin advised it goes back to about 10 years ago, change in legislation in the state to decrease the prison population has been a huge factor.
- **Are there receptors in this area that seem to attract the unhoused individuals more?** Lt. Zagorin advised yes, we have Kaiser Hospital, more businesses in Area 3 and more resources available to them within Area 3.
- **Advised she head a rumor that the corner house on Tamarind and Miller (7714 Tamarind) will become an emergency homeless shelter. There has been a flyer going around. Advised she and her neighbors do not think this is a good idea as there is a catholic school directly across the street and an elementary school just down the street.** Mayor Warren advised everyone needs to understand we do have some houses throughout the city and we are going to help people. The thing to remember is that a house is only allowed to have 6 people only at a time if there are more, then a Conditional Use Permit is needed. Mayor advised now that they have the address they will look into it. Lt. Keith Zagorin advised he wasn't aware of that information but if that is true the police department will closely monitor those houses. We have had a couple within the city already and we have actually shut a couple down if they seem to be getting out of hand.
- **Can a person run a business on a cul-de-sac and block traffic, parking all the business vehicles on the street?** Generally speaking, there are certain businesses that are allowed to be ran from a home but there are conditions and a work vehicle as long as it is not a commercial vehicle (over a certain weight limit) and as long as they are parked legally is allowed to be parked on the street. They shouldn't be blocking traffic at anytime.
- **Who would handle that complaint?** A business from home complaint would be handled by Code Compliance.

- **Are they allowed to park at the end of the cul-de-sac headfirst into the curb, where only the front part of the vehicle is close to the curb?** No that would not be allowed. They have to park legally, which means the front and back tires have to be no more than 18 inches away from the curb. Make sure to call dispatch when this is happening so an officer can address it.
- **Speed here is terrible. When the Amazon Warehouse opened up it only made thing worse. It increased traffic and speed in the area which around Tamarind and Palmetto there are schools in that area, it is very dangerous.** Officer Diaz advised we do work with school police to do enforcement around schools. The city has about 52 schools and we try to visit all of them periodically. We do try to show a presence out there to slow people down. Mayor Warren advised the public has to slow down; it is happening throughout the whole city. Our officers and School PD do what they can. She has been working with the family of the probation officer who was struck and killed at Beech to come up with a plan to try to educate people on the dangers of speeding. Lt. Zagorin advised we have been really proactive in dealing with speeding especially with street racing. Officer Diaz advised he was one of the first officers on scene to the accident with the probation officer and it was a horrible speed related accident. We have worked several details regarding speeding, we try to show our presence which usually tends to slow people down, we do take a zero-tolerance approach on street takeovers.
- **When officers contact the subjects at a street takeover, how many are not from Fontana generally?** Officer Diaz advised out of the ones that are contacted usually more than half are from other cities.
- **With New Year's eve coming up, fireworks will be a problem. It has gotten worse over the years. She has a neighbor who brings truck loads of fireworks and stores them in his garage. Over the 4th of July his son was hurt due to the fireworks. Those fireworks are dangerous.** Lt. Zagorin advised we do try everything possible to try to find those who are lighting them but it is challenging. Our entire Special Enforcement team works on the 4th of July, and we are very aggressive with enforcement. If you know the address of someone who has illegal fireworks and is storing them you can give us that information and we will take a look at it.
- **On Palmetto, from Arrow to Foothill, there are small signs that say no vehicles over 5 tons. Are Walmart trucks allowed to go through there?** Our city is proactive with commercial trucks, there are designated truck routes that they must stay on unless making a delivery.
- **The trucks park along Palmetto and Ivy so much that the curb is black due to the tires rubbing on the curb.** We are constantly doing details on commercial trucks within our city. If you see something, please call our non-emergency number. Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised he will review current and existing signs to make sure they are in good working order.
- **He lives on Lime between Randall and Fontana Avenue, next to him there is a transportation business, another neighbor is renting his property out for a tow yard. There use to be signs on the street that stated no trucks over a certain weight limit, the signs are now missing but the poles are still there.** Dave Teater advised he will check the records to see if there was a sign there and if it is missing, we will have it replaced. The problem with that area is that half of the street is city and half is considered County jurisdiction. San Bernardino County should have a similar department to help with trucking concerns of unauthorized businesses in the area. Mayor Warren advised Jesse Armendarez is now the new supervisor for the area, you can contact him, and he will be able to assist you with your concerns that are in county area. Advised the new City Manager Matt Ballantyne was in attendance as well, instructed him to get him the information and he will follow up with the county.
- **In the same area, only half of the street has been fixed. There are lots of potholes.** Rob Rigby with Public Works advised that is because only half of the street belongs to the city of Fontana. We would like to work with the county to try to get the whole street fixed but we can't spend our city taxpayer money for county issues.

- It was mentioned that an additional officer would be used for commercial enforcement, asked for the time frame for boots on the ground. We don't know for sure it could be up to 18 months or so. City Manager Matt Ballantyne advised City Council approved the hiring of multiple officers, but the hiring process is a challenge. It is an extensive hiring process because we want only the best plus you have to account for training time before those new officers can be on the streets by themselves. If you know someone who wants to be an officer, please encourage them to apply.
- Mayor Warren advised the city is doing fairly well, we don't have any special taxes on our citizens that are assessed on properties. The warehouses bring jobs to the city, and they aren't low paying jobs either, informed residents to not buy into that narrative.
- The street sweeper comes every other week, and they go through the neighborhood and there are cars parked all along the street, so the street doesn't get cleaned. Asked if no parking signs can be installed for street sweeping days. Also, on Palmetto from Ivy to Foothill the curb use to be painted red but people from the senior apartments are now parking on the street leaving their cars for days. Can the city maybe paint the curb for a time limit? Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised we are only allowed to restrict parking for safety issues, we wouldn't restrict parking on the street due to the street sweeper but will take a look at the parking on the street in front of the apartment community.
- Fontana use to be a small town but we have grown so much that she feels bad for officers when she sees them because no one obeys laws anymore. She prays for the officers often.
- Does the city have any plans to install speed bumps? Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised the city has finalized a policy on speed bumps. It has to be on a residential street where there is a history of speed related collisions or a history of speeding. The information is online. Traffic Officer Martin Diaz advised to keep in mind speed bumps also slows down emergency vehicles.
- Vulnerable Persons registry was created by the Chief Round Table Committee as a free service to the residents of Fontana. The Vulnerable Persons Registry is free, voluntary service to promote better communication and contacts between vulnerable people, those who love and support them and the police. This registry allows for quick access to valuable critical information about the vulnerable individual, which would be used during an interaction with police. For more information please visit: <https://www.fontana.org/3465/Vulnerable-Persons-Registry>
- Is animal control under the police department? Yes it is.
- The Orchards Apartments has a problem with a lot of stray cats, the management allows the residents to feed stray cats which brings more and creates a huge problem not only in their community but the surrounding neighborhood. Lt. Zagorin advised we will have Animal Control reach out to the manager and speak with them. Update: The manager was advised of the issue, she advised they are aware of the problem and has already sent out notification to the residents as well as had her staff humanely trap several cats and take them to the shelter.
- What does tied up shoes on a phone line mean? Lt. Zagorin advised it is his understanding that it is to memorialize someone who has passed away.
- So, when you go to the gym, you shouldn't put your purse inside your trunk? Lt. Zagorin advised he would not recommend you leave your purse in your vehicle at all especially at the gym. Make sure to take it with you.

Next Meeting

April 3, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Palmetto Elementary School (9325 Palmetto Avenue)