

MINUTES

Area 4 Community Meeting

April 17, 2023 6:30pm | Mary Vagle Nature Center Area Commander Lt. Tracy Dills

In Attendance

Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Public Works Shawn Matejcek, Public Works Rob Rigby, Landscaping Technician Luis Torres, Officer K. Ryn, Community Services Celeste, Code Enforcement Officer J. Pina, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Councilmember John Roberts, Councilmember Jesse Sandoval Lt. Tracy Dills.

Lt. Tracy Dills

- Welcomed everyone.
- He is currently the new Area Commander for Area 4. Him and Lt. Imhof practically switched places. Lt. Imhof is in his old spot in Investigations and he took over Area 4. He currently works weekends and Monday. If you need to get a hold of him you can reach him via email at Tdills@fontana.org. Email is the best way to contact him.
- It is currently weed abatement season. Code Enforcement officers are proactively looking for any properties that have weeds on them. With the rainy season we had there are more weeds than usual out there. So if your property has any weeds on it please make sure you remove them.
- Crime Stats-
 - Everywhere in California, property crime is up.
 - Specifically in Area 4, theft from vehicles and catalytic converters have increased.
 - Do not leave anything valuable in your vehicle and make sure to lock your doors. We are seeing more and more people just going through the neighborhoods and door checking to see if the doors are unlocked. They are looking for easy targets, so make sure you lock your doors.
 - If you see someone walking around in the middle of the night, looking suspicious, feel free to call us to have an officer go out there.
 - For catalytic converter thefts, back your car in your driveway and make it harder for them to steal.
 - Good news- drug arrests are down.
 - Top calls for service for Area 4
 - 415 disturbances
 - Transient Calls
 - Suspicious Circumstances
 - Area Checks
 - Animal calls
 - Traffic Accidents (non-injury)
 - We aren't responding to crime related calls as much as we were before.
 - We have also lowered response times by 30 seconds.
- Fontana now has 311 which is a new customer service website/app to help provided improved customer experience. Anything you are looking for will be on there. It is similar to our "Who you gonna call" forms. Fontana 311 can be found at <https://www.fontana.org/3329/Fontana-311>.
- Upcoming Events:

- April 21-23-The city of Fontana's Community Services Department is inviting the community to the Spring Production of Disney & Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins, Jr. The show is a fun adventure for the whole family. Cost is \$15 a person at the Steelworkers' Auditorium.
- Summer Camp-Registration begins April 1st for more information visit sumercamps.fontana.org or call (909) 349-6900.
- There are more events listed on the city website.

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

- **Asked if the Victims' Advocate presentation was available in handout?** Victims' advocate Sharleen advised she does have copies of it.
- **How many are staffed with the Victims' advocate.** Sharleen advised there are about 50 advocates, 6 which are in police departments throughout the county. The District Attorney saw a need for the advocates to be placed within the police departments because we don't see all the police reports unless there is a listed suspect. If the suspect is unknown the victim is still a victim of a crime so they will be able to take advantage of the program now since the advocates will have access to those reports.
- **Do the advocates have access to spiritual care?** Sharleen advised we do have Chaplains at the police department who have been a huge help. The victims' advocate is not allowed to bring up religion, however, if the victim asks then we can contact the chaplain of their preferred denomination to contact the victim.
- **What is the fastest way to get a hold of a victims' advocate?** You can call (909) 350-7728, email SOrmonde-Large@sbcda.org, or even go to the police department.
- **Why are call response time reduced by 30 seconds?** Lt. Dills advised there could a number of factors. It could be less calls altogether plus we have more Special Enforcement Teams handling certain calls which frees up our patrol officers.
- **There use to be 4 officers in Area 4, is that still true?** Lt. Dills advised it depends on the day. Sometimes it can be more than 4 depending on what is going on in the area. We have traffic officers, MET team, RRT among other units who might also be in the area which will take us above the usual 3 or 4 officers who are assigned to patrol. Usually with patrol we have 3 officers down here in Area 4.
- **There are several gates that have been installed and locked along the hill which are blocking fire access roads. The gates are in violation of the fire code. The gates don't stop motorcycles from going around them, there are big rigs who take their breaks and park in front of them. Public Works has to respond to unlock them after hours of waiting because no one had the keys to the 6 locks that are on 1 gate.** Chief's Roundtable Committee member Bruce English advised he was the one who originally initiated the request for the gates and the locks due to many people using the trails for off-road vehicles, the gates have helped to restrict access to the hills and have also shown to help control crime in the area. Lt. Dills advised he has gotten calls regarding off roaders and how the gates have helped curb that activity in the area. Some people like the gates and other don't. We are continually seeking solutions to assist with the issues in the area.
- **There are lots of trucks who take their lunch break in neighborhoods. At the shopping center at Cherry and Live Oak as well as all the little side streets along Cherry, just below Jurupa, you will find big rigs parked.** Officer Ryn advised we are aware of the issues in the south end with big rig commercial vehicles, there is a large amount of truck drivers who live in the apartments in the area, which might be contributing to the trucks you see in the area; however, they are not allowed to be parked within a residential zone.
- **What recommendations do you have that the residents can do to help combat the truck traffic within the neighborhoods? Can residents take pictures of the trucks instead of calling and waiting for a police officer to come out?** Officer Ryn advised we can not accept pictures in order to write a citation, the officer has to personally see the violation when it is occurring so keep calling us and the more calls, we get the more resources we will be able to adjust down into Area 4 so we can deal with the issues. Lt. Dills advised he will go out to the location to do some enforcement himself.
- **There are "No trucks" signs in a lot of areas however not in his neighborhood.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised a lot of the signs were placed in high trafficked area and they initially were placed as a test to see if it would help curb the trucks in residential areas. The signs are expensive, and we tend to place them in areas where the trucks will have no problems turning around.

- **At Juniper and Slover there needs to be a stop light due to the traffic from the school. On the northside of Slover and Juniper there is a new development, is it part of their requirements to install a stop light in the area.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised it depends. Some developments are required to install stop lights and do landscaping improvements in the area.
- **Just moved here last year. Along Beech and Colleen there is a huge walkway behind their house filled with weeds and they have seen people dumping their trash in that area.** Luis with Public Works advised we are currently in the middle of Weed Abatement Season so that area will be taken care of within the next couple of weeks. The weeds and trash will be removed, however if you see anyone illegally dumping in the area you can call the police department to report it when it is happening.
- **He has lived here for 33 years and the walls within the community have never been painted. They will remove graffiti, but the walls are never painted. The park doesn't have enough trash cans and there are no mile markers along the trail.**
- **What is the fine for a big rig in a residential area?** Officer Ryn advised the fine is \$100 for the first offense and goes up from there.
- **The gate at the Nature Center is always open which allows Big Rigs to park in here overnight.**
- **Received a notice of Mello-roos and she is ok with paying the money however the median on Jurupa going west is not kept up and looks horrible. There is a warehouse going in at Chaparral with the development of that warehouse is the landscaping going to be fixed.** Dave Teater with Traffic Engineering advised Jurupa will be re-landscaped within the next 6 months.
- **At Southridge Park, Live Oak/Cherry, the traffic is horrible.** Dave Teater advised that intersection will be upgraded to hopefully help with the traffic. There has been a supply issue, however the design and the contractor has been approved, that whole project should be completed within the next 2 years. There is a lot going into this project which include relocating storm drains and utilities, it is a very involved project.
- **A crossing guard was requested but got denied for Southridge Middle School. Who do they ask when they would like extra patrol in the area when kids go to and get out of school, since a crossing guard was denied plus parents double park?** DA Victims' Advocate Sharleen advised her daughter goes to Wayne Ruble and they have the same issue there. The school recently started to let the kids out on a staggered schedule which has seemed to help with the traffic issues. They also opened up their after-school program to allow more kids into the program. Get involved with the PTA and the school board, ask for the staggered release times, they have seemed to help. Lt. Dills advised it is a problem at every school our traffic unit has a rotation which they visit all the schools. A Resident advised parent participation helps, as well as get with your school and coordinate some parents to help direct traffic during the times when students are let out.
- **What is the jurisdiction of the police department in Area 4?** Lt. Dills advised everything from the 10 freeway to the Riverside County Line and from Alder to Mulberry, everything in between is city.
- **Transients are a huge problem. At what point is enforcement taken against them? There is one on Slover, who constantly has open containers, defecating in public, and blocking the sidewalks.** Lt. Dills advised the State of California made it legal for people to sleep on the sidewalks, we can see if she is a danger to herself or others then we will be able to get her help, however if she is not then she would have the option whether she would like to take the help or not and most of the time transients won't take the help. If there is action to take, our officers will take it but most of the time there isn't anything the officers can do because the laws have been minimized. If tickets are issued, usually they are dismissed, so they aren't a deterrent anymore. It is a statewide problem, but we are doing what we can. We have so many resources for them if they take advantage of them. It is very frustrating for our officers.

- **What can we do to stop Fontana from looking like downtown San Bernardino?** Lt. Dills advised we are doing what we can. We have several different teams that offers the transient population resources to try to get them off the streets, but they need to want to get the help, if they don't want the help there isn't much we can do. We have our MET unit, where their primary focus is on the homeless population, then the COAST Team where they assist with the mental health side of things. The city is currently building a homeless shelter on Citrus and Arrow that is costing millions of dollars which will assist with the transient population and getting them the assistance, they need.
- **There has been an increase of street vendors. Feels it isn't fair for business like Poncho Villas who has to pay rent and taxes while the vendors can go set up in front of their business and take business from them.** Code Compliance Officer J. Pina advised street vendors are huge problem because the state passed laws which allow them; however, they need to have the proper permits to be in business. Most of the vendors out there do not have the proper permits. The city has hired contractors whose primary duty is to address the vendors. The problem is we give the vendors notice they are not allowed to be in business, they will go away for that day, but they will always come back. We now have the ability to take their food if we deem it is not safe to eat.
- **How many homeless people do we have in the area?** Lt. Dills advised the county just did a county wide count, but he doesn't have the exact number of how many are in Fontana. Advised if he gave him his information after the meeting, he will be able to get that number to him. According to <https://sbchp.sbcounty.gov/community-projects/point-in-time-count/> Point in Time Count in 2022 Fontana had 7 sheltered and 149 unsheltered for a total of 156 homeless individuals within the city which is a 34% increase from 2020 when Fontana had a total of 116 homeless individuals.
- **Most of the community's money is going to other cities, he goes to Costco in another city because the Costco in the city is too far. We keep getting these warehouses but no restaurants or other businesses that the residents in the area can use, it is a shame.**
- **We have two Councilmembers here at tonight's meeting, since we keep getting warehouse after warehouse, we should also be getting things the community can use. When making these warehouses we should have a requirement that they have to provide something for the residents.**
- **What happened with the dog park? The city sold the park land but knows there is currently a court case regarding it.** Councilmember John Roberts advised there are two dog parks that are going to be developed, one should be completed by the end of the year and the city didn't sell any land, we just traded parcels to a developer.

Next Meeting

August 14th @ 6:30 pm, at Southridge Middle School (14500 Live Oak Avenue)