

MINUTES

Area 1 Community Meeting

July 13, 2023 6:30 PM | Jesse Turner Center Area Commander Lt. Kellen Guthrie

In Attendance

Lt. Kellen Guthrie, Landscape Technician Martin Celio, Traffic Engineering Dave Teater, Code Compliance Inspector Maria Gonzalez, Community Services Janette Solares, District Attorney's Victims' Advocate Sharleen Ormonde-Large, Officer J. Parsons, Public Works Shawn Matejcek, Lt. Adam Clabaugh 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.
- All the city staff introduced themselves.

Events

- National Night Out-August 1st from 5pm to 8pm at Miller Park Amphitheater.

Swat Commander Lt. Adam Clabaugh

- With the passing of Assembly Bill 481, the police department is required to let the public know of the military equipment we possess and might use in certain situations.
- Our Inland Valley SWAT team consists of 51 members ranging from 3 city collaboration with Fontana, Colton and Rialto. Fontana Police department makes up the bulk of the team because we are the larger agency.
- SWAT is then broken up into specialized teams:
 - Black Team-Specialized equipment team
 - Green Team-Entry Team
 - Silver Team- Entry Team
 - Red Team-Snipers
 - Hostage and Negotiations team
 - Which includes 3 dispatchers
 - Tactical Medic Team
 - 4 paramedics all from San Bernardino County Fire.
- To get on the SWAT Team there is a selection process.
 - Physical fitness test
 - Shooting test
 - Interview process
- Current equipment:
 - 4 Bearcats, Colton recently purchased a new one. These offer full armored protection.

- A rook which is a tactical armored tractor.
- Weapons include Colt 6946 Carbine and Remington 700
- Less Lethal options such as sponge rounds.
- Diversionary devices such as flash bangs
- Chemical agents CN and CS gas
- Robots-all of which have cameras and it saves officers from going in, most of these robots can also deploy gas.
- Type of calls SWAT responds to:
 - High Risk Search Warrants
 - Barricaded subject calls outs
 - Hostage situations
 - Riot Control
 - Mutual Aid-We went out on the Donner incident and the San Bernardino shooting.

Questions

- **When officers who are on SWAT are off duty, do they get called in?** When there is a full deployment for the SWAT Team then the officers get overtime, however usually the teams are on call, and they take turns being called in.
- **How long has the SWAT Team been together?** The SWAT team has been around since the 1970's, we have some officers stay on the team for 20 plus years.
- **What is the response time in Area 1 on the west side?** Lt. Guthrie advised we don't divide the area up by east or west, so we only have the approximate time for Area 1 as a whole which is about 6 minutes.
- **Are certain calls prioritized over others?** Lt. Guthrie advised yes; all the calls that come into dispatch are prioritized. Priority one calls are usually violent in progress calls and those are the calls our officers respond to the quickest.
- **Do all officer carry tasers?** Yes, all officers carry tasers and it is per our policy that the taser is carried on the opposite side from their gun.
- **Who is responsible for repaving the streets in Hunter's Ridge?** Shawn Matejcek with Engineering advised the city just completed their 7-year repaving program plan, but Public Works is responsible for the street repaving and potholes.
- **Has the city been getting a lot of response from the 311 app?** Residents have been using it and it seems to be successful. We are still learning it and we appreciate as much information as you can provide when you are reporting something on 311.
- **Is anyone enforcing people running red lights. The intersection at Sierra and Sierra Lakes Parkway is bad. Fox Ridge and Cherry is also bad.** Officer Parsons took note of the intersections and advised they do enforce the laws and there have been times especially in Hunter's Ridge when sitting at the park catching people speeding, they are usually the residents in the area.
- **Advised people are also not stopping at all 4 stops of Augusta.**
- **Who would usually deal with people doing donuts from around 11pm to midnight?** Lt. Guthrie advised usually it would be patrol during that time as most of the traffic unit is off by then. Officer J. Parsons advised the night before the traffic unit did work a detail on street racing. In Fontana it hasn't been a huge issue as we have seen complete take overs in other cities.
- **With deploying patrol resources, is it based on crime statistics?** Lt. Guthrie advised yes that is part of it, however it is also based on population as well.
- **Is there a website to look up crime statistics?** Lt. Guthrie advised you can find the link on our website www.fontanaca.gov or on crimemapping.com.

- **What is the timeframe for the Sierra Lakes Elementary School Construction?** Lt. Guthrie advised he was not sure. Victims' Advocate Sharleen advised most of the construction was supposed to be done during summer however it doesn't look like that is happening so probably a year or so was what they were told during the meeting at the school.
- **Is there a code violation for a neighbor storing stuff in their yard?** Code Compliance inspector Maria Gonzalez advised yes it could be a code violation if they are storing stuff in their yard creating a hazard or if it is like a hoarding situation.
- **Suggested patrol officers do their report writing around Sierra Lakes Elementary School, advised there are a lot of people who park in the area because no one goes back there.**
- **How did firework enforcement go this year?** Lt. Guthrie advised usually enforcement starts months before the 4th of July. However, on the night of the 4th we had all our special units working and we received 281 calls for service for fireworks, 41 fire calls, 16 citations were issued, and 3000 lbs. of fireworks were confiscated.
- **Did you feel this year was less or more hectic than previous years with fireworks?** Lt. Guthrie advised he didn't work on the 4th this year however he did work the weekend before and it wasn't as bad as past years.
- **Have seen agencies around the US have been dealing with staffing issues, how is Fontana doing with regards to staffing?** We are dealing with it as well; we currently have 20 openings, and we want to make sure we keep our standards high. Usually when we get like 200 applicants only 2 will usually make it all the way through to become a police officer with us.
- **Is our Air support a shared service or is it just Fontana's?** Lt. Guthrie advised it is just Fontana's however we do sometimes help other agencies when we can. All of our helicopters have been purchased with asset forfeiture money, so it doesn't come from the general fund.
- **Does the police department have drones?** Yes, we currently have 2 of them. They are usually used by the SWAT team.
- **Are there any new trends citizens should be aware of?** Lt. Guthrie advised not really; we still have the common Catalytic converter thefts which is a big one. We do have units who deal with those thefts however it is hard to prove they are stolen because most of them do not have a serial number on it. Back flow thefts come in waves. Property Crime is a problem throughout the whole state. In the new construction they are starting to take water heaters.
- **Advised she lives in Sierra Crest and there is never any patrol there. Her car was broken into, and the officer told her it is because she lived so close to the freeway it makes it easy for thefts to happen.** Lt. Guthrie advised we do see more activity in areas closer to the freeway because it does provide for an easy get away. However, if you see anything or anyone suspicious, please give us a call so we can have an officer check it out.

Next Meeting

November 2nd @ 6:30 PM at **Sierra Lakes Elementary School (5740 Avenal Ave)**