

MINUTES

Area 2 Community Meeting

March 19, 2024 6:30 PM | Almeria Middle School Area Commander Lt. Matt Kraut

In Attendance

Lt. Matt Kraut, Landscape Technician Jose Orozco, Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian, Engineering Shawn Matejcek, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil, Community Officer Jonathan Bagley, Victim's Advocate Sharleen Omande Large, Councilmember Phillip Cothran

Lt. Matt Kraut

- Welcomed everyone to the Area 2 Community Meeting.
 - The city is broken up into four areas. This area is Area 2 which encompasses everything from the 210 freeway to Foothill Blvd east and west of the city. There is also a little pocket just south of Foothill that belongs to Area 2.
 - The Area Commander program was created for the ongoing quality of life problems. When you have an emergency, please call dispatch to have an officer get out there immediately, however if it is an on-going problem then you contact Lt. Kraut.
 - Had all of the city staff introduce themselves.
 - We try to do our best to solve the problems with the resources we have.
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Code Compliance-Cynthia Gil

- The City of Fontana started the Weed Abatement Program in 1999.
 - Code Compliance Inspectors conduct semi-annual weed and waste inspections throughout the city.
 - The purpose of this is to ensure that owners are maintaining their property and keeping it free of any weeds or rubbish per the city Municipal Code.
 - Property owners are responsible for weeding their property by mowing, discing, and performing necessary handwork along fence lines, walkways, parkways, driveways, streets, and structures. Property owners must keep property clean of all green waste, solid waste, trash, and debris.
 - Inspectors will inspect the property and open a case on any property that is not being properly maintained. Notices will be sent out to the property owner and the property owner will have 30 days to get into compliance.
 - For violations that are not corrected by the compliance deadline, the city of Fontana will abate the violations and assess all costs associated with the clean up against the property. A lien will be filed with the San Bernardino County Assessors against the subject property.
 - Weed Abatement happens twice a year. The first Weed Abatement season starts the first week of April for the Spring Season and the second one starts the first week of October for the Fall Season.
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Questions

- **Has called on several streets because the cracks are getting wider especially where the manholes are, all along Almeria.** Public Works will be able to take a look into that. If you are out and about and see

any issues with streets such as potholes that need to be filled you can always report them on the 311 system.

- **On the Nextdoor app, she has seen a lot more posting about burglaries, has crime been increasing in the area?** Lt. Kraut advised there hasn't been an increase in Area 2 with regards to residential burglaries. With residential burglaries the suspects are usually looking for easy targets, so houses where no one is home, a house without cameras, if you leave your home make sure it looks like someone is home or maybe even have the radio playing while you are away.
- **Advised she has seen a lot more residents who seem to be truck drivers bring their trucks home, are they allowed to do that?** Cynthia Gil with Code Compliance advised if they are parking their commercial trucks on their property that would be an issue Code Compliance would handle, if the trucks are being parked on the street that is a PD issue.
- **Are RV's included in with something Code Compliance would handle.** Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil advised if the RV is parked on the property and creating a nuisance then yes Code Compliance would handle that call, if it parked on the street the PD would handle that. However RV's are allowed to be parked on the driveway as long as it is not blocking the sidewalk.
- **Advised she has been a resident of Fontana for 24 years and every year with the 4th of July the fireworks are crazy and it just seems to be getting worse. ?** Lt. Kraut advised the 4th of July is bad every year and every year we have a large number of officers who are dealing with firework calls. We have done details where we try to set up purchases of the illegal fireworks to catch the people who are selling them. We have numerous undercover officers out trying to find where the fireworks are being set off at. It is a continued struggle. We continue to work on trying to suppress illegal fireworks every year. Councilmember Cothran advised the city council is currently working on a resolution which will allow officers to cite the property owner of where the firework is being set off at instead of trying to figure out who lit the firework the homeowner now will be responsible.
- **When it comes to loud noises from neighbors such as music, how many times does the police department have to go out before you start citing them?** Lt. Kraut advised when there is a continuous problem such as this please contact him to let him know because the problem is one officer will go out, then the next day another officer will go out and not know that the other officer went out the night before and then you call again during the week on a different day there is a completely new team of officers on duty who don't know that officers already when to that house to advise them, so if you let Lt. Kraut know there is an issue we can handle the calls a little differently which could allow the next officer who goes out to that property to cite the property owner.
- **Advised she lives on Tamarind just south of Miller and every day between 9 and 10 am there are about 3 or 4 teenagers who ride a moped up and down the street without helmets, they even ride that thing at night on the street and it is hard to see them. If you put an officer near Elaine and Tamarind the officer will for sure catch them.**
- **The Police Department has done a great job of dealing with loud music in her neighborhood. When she calls they usually respond quickly and get it turned down right away.** Lt. Kraut advised it depends on the day and time you call, sometimes usually weekends will take officers a little longer to get to noise complaints however they will always address any call we receive.
- **A neighbor told her that there was a stop sign that was knocked down near North Tamarind School, he supposedly went to City Hall to try to get it fixed and the girl at the counter told him he was in Rialto Jurisdiction and they sent him to the Police Department, at the police department he was also informed that the area of Tamarind and Miller was Rialto Jurisdiction.** Lt. Kraut advised the area around North Tamarind Elementary School is Fontana jurisdiction so he is not sure why they informed him that it was Rialto. There are some areas that are considered Rialto as the boundary gets a little jagged however the area around North Tamarind Elementary School is Fontana.

- **There is a lot of speeding on Baseline/Cherry area also Beech and Miller.** Traffic Officer Bagley took note of it so they can keep an eye on the location.
- **The police department does an awesome job. But there has been issues with people doing donuts around AB Miller High School along Walnut from Cypress to Oleander, you can see the marks in the street, it usually happens on weekends in the evening.** Officer Bagley advised he took a note of it, we have 2 traffic officers who are assigned to weekend nights and usually they are handling all the traffic calls that come in but he will pass along the information to them to keep an eye out for this activity.
- **Advised the city is very responsive with graffiti removal and she appreciates it.**
- **There is a problem at Citrus and Highland with traffic backing up and now with the In N Out going in there it is just going to cause more congestion in the area.** Ruben Hovanesian with Traffic Engineering advised the city is aware of the issues there and the problem is that we have to work with Cal Trans with their street lights over the freeway, their priority is to get people off the freeway as quickly as possible so we have to work with what they set for their traffic signals so it can be difficult at times because they don't always tell us when there has been changes with their signals. We are also working on several projects in that location to add extra lanes which should free up some space to help with the congestion, however that project to add extra lanes is about 5 years out.
- **Is there anything that can be done with vehicles that are parked on the street that don't run or they are using it just for storage.** Lt. Kraut advised we can go out and we will have to mark and tag the vehicle first and give the owner 72 hours to move the vehicle. If it is not moved within 72 hours then we can either issue it a citation or tow it depending on the circumstances. There is not much that can be done if a person wants to use their vehicle for storage however it has to be operable, and tags are current for it to be on the street.
- **Pulling on Tamarind from Elaine it is hard to see because there is a truck that parks so close to the corner. There was even a Sheriff who got into an accident because it is hard to see oncoming traffic.** The unit who works the transient issues within our city has found that it is more effective to be in unmarked cars so they might already be doing extra patrol in the park you just might not realized it is officers. He will let them know about the transient issue in the park, but they may already be aware of it.
- **Asked if the lady who was arrested for stealing mail was prosecuted.** Lt. Kraut advised she was, and she is currently out on probation.
- **On Tamarind there is a huge palm tree and a bunch of cars parked along the curb it is hard to see on coming traffic.** Traffic took note of the location.
- **Sees a lot of homeless in the area especially around Cherry and Baseline.** Councilmember Cothran advised the city council is working on several things that can help with the homeless problem in the city. The city has purchased a motel which we will have approximately 90 plus beds where we will offer not only a place to stay but mental health help as well. We have to come into compliance with the requirements of the State of California which we are doing and we have to be able to provide them shelter prior to us being able to take enforcement action so with this motel we are converting into a shelter we will be able to do that. We are also working with Water of Life Church which you might have seen the new building on Arrow and Citrus, that will be another shelter and resource center for the homeless population.
- **Does the Police Department still have the taskforce that deals with mental health issues?** Lt. Kraut advised yes we have our COAST Team as well as our MET Unit who deals with the homeless population but also works with probation as many of them are on probation and they also offer county resources to these subjects.
- **With Weed abatement, there is the field next to the school with the solar panels that is full of weeds and not being kept up.** Code Inspector Cynthia Gil advised that property is the school districts and unfortunately, we are unable to open a case up on school grounds, however the city did have a meeting

with School District officials, and they have been informed that we will be starting weed abatement inspections and their properties should be addressed. We can't open a case up on the property however we can hold them accountable for their grounds.

Next Meeting

July 30, 2024 @ 6:30 PM at **Fontana Police Department (17005 Upland Ave)**