

MINUTES

Area 2 Community Meeting

July 30, 2024 6:30 PM | *Fontana Police Department* Area Commander Lt. Matt Kraut

In Attendance

Lt. Matt Kraut, Landscape Technician Raul Esparza, Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian, Engineering Shawn Matejcek, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Inspector Peggy Fonseca, Deputy City Manager Phillip Burum, City Manager Matt Ballantyne, City Council John Roberts, City Treasurer Janet Kohler Brooks

Lt. Matt Kraut

- Welcomed everyone to the Area 2 Community Meeting.
- He has 26 years of experience in law enforcement. He has held many special assignments throughout his career and about eight years ago he was promoted to Lieutenant. He currently works nights as the Watch Commander
- 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.

Questions

- **How does the public get ahold of the Area Commander?** Lt. Matt Kraut (909) 356-7142 or you can email him at mkraut@fontanaca.gov.
- **How often are these Community Meetings?** Lt. Kraut advised we hold the meetings every 4 months.
- **Asked if the Fontana Police Department is going to be the new location to hold the Community meetings?** Lt. Kraut advised no it is not, we try to hold the meeting within Area 2 however the schools were closed for Summer, and we weren't able to use their facilities. We try to rotate locations, so it makes it easier for everyone in Area 2 to attend the meetings.
- **Lives in Heritage and have been told for years that they were going to repave the streets because most of them are damaged by tree roots.** Shawn Matejcek advised some streets have already been completed, next year Lincoln Loop and Yosemite Loop will be done along with the main loop being done the following year, the whole project is taking about 5 years to complete, in the meantime Public Works is doing a lot of patch work on the streets that currently haven't been repaved.
- **How many square miles is Fontana?** Fontana is approximately 52.4 square miles but that includes some unincorporated areas.
- **Lives on Brandon and Constitution, the tree trimmers did a fabulous job but they have a block wall that has been cracked by a city tree, what can be done about that?** Sergio Quiroz with Landscaping advised he will take a look at it and see what plan of action can be done to get the wall fixed.

- **How many migrants have been dropped off in Fontana?** Lt. Kraut advised he does not know of any being dropped off in the city.
- **Couldn't get through on the 311 line to report fireworks.** 311 is supposed to make things easier to report stuff like that however there was an outage around the 4th of July.
- **A neighbor has a van that he uses for storage. It is inoperable and is parked on the street. He said he got a 72-hour notice and informed her that he just changed the license plate and pushed it forward and the police department hasn't bothered him since.** Lt. Kraut advised if he moved it from the location where it was originally tagged there isn't much that can be done with that as long as it moved, however if he put false plates on the vehicle that can be dealt with.
- **He has been in Fontana since 1947 and has noticed poor homeless folks increasing in Fontana and he believes it is more of a behavioral health problem rather than a housing problem, believes the city should be focusing on getting these people behavioral health help.** Lt. Kraut advised we do try to address the behavioral health issues. Deputy City Manager Phillip Burum advised the City Council recently adopted a plan and a budget to deal with the homeless population, not only are we planning on helping with housing but also the mental health aspect of it as well. San Bernardino County passed Laura's Law which allows for court ordered assisted outpatient treatment, it is a conservatorship that will help some of the homeless population get the mental help they need. It will provide services for individuals who are experiencing a serious and persistent mental illness who can benefit from treatment but declines voluntary participation. You should start to see a change with the homeless population within the next 12 months or so. It isn't an overnight change, it will take time but we are providing more resources to try to combat the problem.
- **Has the city thought about getting interns from these colleges to help with dealing in mental health?** Deputy City Manager Phillip Burum advised we are currently working with the County of San Bernardino who has these resources already, the city hasn't tried to get interns because we don't have a mental health unit to have them work under but even then an intern isn't completely free, we would have to provide their equipment they need such as laptops or computers but everything seems to be going good with working with San Bernardino County for those resources.
- **They live on Malaga and since they installed the center median his mailbox has been hit several times, his daughter's vehicle has been hit as it was parked on the street. A streetlight is needed there and maybe some signs from Mango letting people know you can't make a left turn at Sierra. He constantly sees people going the wrong way on the street to turn left and the speed on Sierra has gotten worse.** Office Sein advised he currently has done speed enforcement there at least 2 times a week and will continue to do so.
- **At Baseline and Almeria, the yellow blinking turn light confuses people. Drivers do not understand what yield means.** Lt. Kraut advised the intent of the blinking yellow light was to improve traffic flow and what it seems to be is that people aren't paying attention and yielding for the blinking yellow light, the accidents that have happened there have not been the fault of the people going straight but the people who are turning left in front of the people who have the right of way.
- **Has a redlight camera been suggested for at least Baseline.** Lt. Kraut advised he has not heard of any suggestion like that however he can bring it up at the next Department Head Meeting.
- **There are a lot of issues with the new school on Miller and Sierra. Parents are parking in his driveway and waiting for their kid when school gets out, there has also been a lot of fights on his street, which is Malaga, says he called and spoke with the principal, but she said it is not her problem.** Lt. Kraut advised if you see an active fight, please call our dispatch to have officers go out right away as for the parents parking in his driveway if he has a time, or if it is the same vehicle everyday if he can provide a license plate Lt. Kraut might be able to address it.

- Someone etched a swastika in the wet cement that is now the sidewalk, is there any way that can be removed. Lt. Kraut advised for him to give him the information so we can get that taken care of ASAP.
- There is a traffic light going in by Water of Life Church on East Avenue, she feels it is going to be an issue 6 of the 7 days when Church doesn't have service. Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian advised the city is constantly trying to plan ahead however, if it does seem to be causing an issue, they do have the ability to manipulate the lights to make it more efficient.
- Her daughter rides a bike to school and from Baseline by the Heritage pool she has almost gotten hit by cars multiple times. Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian advised any areas of concern that Traffic Engineering needs to be aware of can be reported on the 311 system.
- She works for Partners Against Violence which is a victim's advocate group for victims of domestic violation and sexual assault. They provide support for survivors of sexual assault and violent crimes. All their services are confidential and available at no cost to the survivor, their significant other and family members. They offer assistance with obtaining restraining orders, counseling, advocacy, and education.
- Recently moved from Colton to Heritage and there is a huge problem with the influx of cars parked in their neighborhood from the First Edition Condos on W. Liberty Parkway. They recently went to an open house of one of the condos and asked if there is not enough parking, where do they park and they were informed they can just park on the street in the neighborhood across W. Liberty Loop. There are about 10-16 cars that park on her street from the condos, was wondering if maybe no overnight parking can be enforced in the area. Lt. Kraut advised her to get with him after the meeting so he can get more information. These are the types of things he can help handle even if he has to get other departments involved.
- Is it illegal to park in bike lanes? People are constantly parking in the bike lane at Kohler Park, the eastside of Beech is constantly full of cars. Officer Sein advised yes, it is illegal to park in bike lanes, advised he will go and take a look at the location because he just pulled it up on the map and there is also a sign posted that there is no parking in the bike lane.
- Overall, the police department is doing an awesome job. She advised she doesn't have any complaints.

Next Meeting

November 19, 2024 @ 6:30 PM at North Tamarind Elementary School (7961 Tamarind Avenue)