

MINUTES

Area 2 Community Meeting

November 19, 2024 6:30 PM | North Tamarind Elementary School 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, Lt. Scott Snyder, Councilmember Phillip Cothran

Lt. Matt Kraut

- Welcomed everyone to the Area 2 Community Meeting.
- He currently works nights as the Watch Commander and is also assigned as the Area 2 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 issues. It was started years ago to help fix long term issues within neighborhoods. Lt. Kraut advised he has the time to focus on finding resolutions to issues within neighborhoods. When you have an emergency, please call dispatch to have an officer get out there immediately, however if it is an on-going issue then you contact Lt. Kraut.
- The Area Commander program has 5 Lieutenants assigned to it. 4 of the lieutenants are assigned a specific area within the city of Fontana, the 5th lieutenant, who is currently Lt. Snyder is assigned to oversee the Traffic Unit, Animal Services and the civilian Patrol.
- When you call Lt. Kraut with an issue in your neighborhood please provide as much information as you can, the more information you provide the better for us to resolve the issues. If you need a police officer right away please make sure to call dispatch first to have an officer dispatched to your location but then you can also call Lt. Kraut afterwards to keep him informed of what is going on.
- Had all of the city staff introduce themselves.
- Went around the room to hear each individuals concerns, which are below under the Questions section.

Questions

- **Are there any plans to resurface Liberty Parkway anytime soon. When you drive on that road your car is shaking terribly.** Councilmember Phillip Cothran advised we are currently working on resurfacing the streets in Heritage. Engineering Shawn Matejcek advised we are currently working a repaving all of Heritage but it is going in sections. Next year we will be starting on Lincoln Loop and Yosemite Loop. Unfortunately, Liberty parkway will be done last just because of the issues we have on that street. We will be removing several trees and replacing them with trees that don't have such a shallow root system. This project should be completed within the next 3 to 4 years. Councilmember Cothran advised we are spending approximately \$2 million a year to fix the streets in Heritage. Measure T, which looks like it is going to pass with approximately 1,000 or so votes will help with streets as well as 50% of those funds are allocated to go to infrastructure and streets.
- **With inoperable vehicles, does it have to be on the street for something to be done with it. She has a neighbor who has an old vehicle that doesn't move parked on their driveway, it is unsightly.** Peggy

with Code Compliance advised if it is on private property Code Compliance will handle those calls however if it is parked on the street that is something the Police Department would handle.

- **Advised her only complaint is noise traffic along Beech. She lives by Kohler Park, there are loud cars constantly going up and down Beech, vehicles speeding that she doesn't think they realize how fast they are going. The other issue which she brought up in the last meeting was people are still parking in the bike lane at the park.**
- **Advised when they call regarding a stray dog it takes Animal Services approximately 40 or more minutes to show up by that time the dog is no longer there or no longer an issue.**
- **Lives on Joshua Tree, just moved there and when they moved in there was a lot of drug transactions behind her house on Yucca. It is dark back there and when she spoke with someone from Traffic Engineering, he referred her to Southern California Edison to request a streetlight. She has since installed her own lights in her backyard and cameras, which has helped. It is also frustrating to get Code Compliance out to the area to deal with all the inoperable vehicles and as the last person mentioned there is a dog who constantly gets out and is running around when kids are walking to school but by the time animal control shows up the dog is back on the property, so nothing can be done.**
- **There is an easement behind his house that they share with the city, he would like maybe a gate back there so he can park back there in order to help deter some of the issues that are going on on Joshua Tree and Yucca. Advised he started a Neighborhood Watch group because of the issues on his street and now he is being harassed and there has been some retaliation going on in the neighborhood. Lt. Kraut advised he will talk to them after the meeting one on one to get more information on what is going on there.**
- **Advised she lives in Heritage and she agrees with the earlier comment that the streets are horrible there and she is glad to hear something is being done about them.**
- **He likes to walk the greenbelts in Heritage, however there has been a lot of times there are stray dogs in the area and they have a constant fear of being attacked and chased by these stray dogs because they like to walk their own dog. When you see stray dogs please call our dispatch especially if they are vicious and attacking people.**
- **How many people work for Animal Services? Lt. Snyder advised we currently have 5 Animal Services Officers but we are in the process of hiring a 6th person.**
- **Advised probably 80-90% of social media posts on Facebook or Nextdoor are regarding loose dogs running around the city. Lt. Snyder advised Animal Services is probably one of the busiest units within the police department. They are constantly going from call to call, so they are working on every call that we get in, sometimes they are successful in catching the loose animal and sometimes the dogs are gone by the time they get there. We also just partnered with San Bernardino City Animal Shelter because our contract with Riverside expired. There are some challenges in doing that because San Bernardino shelter is a lot smaller than the Riverside one.**
- **When we use to get trash bills there use to be this insert in that with the information about the city which included listing these meetings, how are you planning on getting the word out about the meeting now that the bills are automatically on our tax bills? Also suggest when electronic signs are out, instead of saying Area 1 or Area 2 Community Meeting just say Community Meeting because when it says Area 1 some people might not know what that means and might not show up because they don't think it pertains to them.**

Next Meeting

March 18, 2025 @ 6:30 PM at Heritage Community Center (7350 W. Liberty Parkway)