

# AREA 3 COMMUNITY MEETING

## MINUTES

August 12, 2024 6:30 PM | *Fontana Senior Center* Area Commander Lt. Chris Tusant

### In Attendance

Lt. Chris Tusant, Utilities & Streets Supervisor Rob Rigby, Landscape Technician Raul Esparza, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Cynthia Gil, City Treasurer Janet Kohler Brooks, Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian, DA Victim's Advocate Sharleen Ormonde-Large, Councilmember Jesse Sandoval, City Manager Matt Ballantyne

### Lt. Chris Tusant

- Welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the Area 3 Community Meeting.
- Introduced himself as the Area 3 Commander.
- The Area Commander program was designed as a commitment to the community of Fontana in an effort to provide a more effective and intensive police response to specific community needs. Most of the time we are dealing with quality-of-life issues that may come up in your neighborhood. If you have an ongoing issue that doesn't seem to be getting resolved, you can always reach out to the Area Commander.
- Had city staff introduce themselves.
- Advised he currently oversees a patrol team made up of 14 officers from Saturday to Monday. If you need to get a hold of him the best option would be to email him because he could be out in the field or maybe on days off but he always has his email available to him through his cell phone.
- Projects-
  - Community Enrichment Programs Updates:
    - The areas in which were covered by the enrichment program was Mango between San Bernardino and Arrow, Fontana Middle School, Dolores Huerta, Palmetto Elementary School, and Randall Pepper Elementary School.
      - 25 Parking citation were issued.
      - 7 moving violations
      - 35 vehicles were investigated for 72-hour violations. With these violations we legally have to mark and give the owner 72 hours to move the vehicle. Unfortunately, they only have to move it a couple of inches.
      - 23 vehicles were towed.
      - And 3 traffic collision reports.
      - Traffic Officer Sherwood advised they did a community enrichment program just this past Wednesday. They get their areas by complaints received, on the 311 system as well as from these community meetings.
  - Transient Enforcement
    - Transient/Homeless/Unhoused individual treatment and enforcement.
    - Enforcement was taken near the Sierra Corridor from Valley to Foothill as well as near the library and the art depot/Pacific Electric Trail.
    - Department has created a second Multiple Enforcement Team, it is now 7 days a week
- Stats for Area 3

- One thing you can count on around the holidays, crime tends to go up because there are more opportunities. Be mindful of your surroundings. When temperature goes up so does crime usually, stolen cars increase, and assaults go up.
- One stat that seems to continuously go down is our response time. It is down about a minute and half since the last meeting.
- Crimes Against Property:

Offense	May	June	July
Robbery	2	6	6
Burglary	10	6	14
Larceny	42	44	48
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	21	26
Arson	0	1	0
Destruction of property	28	9	14
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	4	0
Fraud	7	7	8
Embezzlement	1	0	4
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0
Stolen Property	18	16	22
<b>Crime Against Property Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>142</b>

- Crimes Against Society:

Offenses	May	June	July
Drugs	41	32	32
Drug Equipment	40	37	22
Gambling	0	0	0
Pornography	7	4	17
Prostitution	0	0	0
Weapons	16	12	6
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0
<b>Crime Against Society Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>76</b>

- Contact information for Lt. Tusant:

- (909) 350-7706
- [ctusant@fontanaca.gov](mailto:ctusant@fontanaca.gov)
- City Website: [Fontanaca.gov](http://Fontanaca.gov)
- Instagram: @fontanaPD and @fontanapd\_airsupport

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## Questions

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- **Does the police department follow the DMV laws?** Lt. Tusant advised we follow the California State laws. The DMV has policies in place. If a vehicle isn't registered for 6 months and it is parked on the street legally, we are able to tow it.
- **He has used the 311 system and they have asked him questions he is not able to answer.** Lt. Tusant advised if it is a police department issue, you can always still call our non-emergency phone number.
- **They were at an intersection when kids started doing donuts, who does she call for that?** Lt. Tusant advised something like that, that is dangerous you should call 911.
- **Would like to hear more about the PATH program, how do the recipients get there, do they have to be referred, also is there an update on the lady on Alder and San Bernardino.** Officer Summers advised the HOST team is in charge of the PATH Program. The Path, a homeless prevention resource and Care center is located at 17133 Valley Blvd and it once was a hotel but has been converted into a homeless facility which will house 30 individuals but will eventually have beds for 120 people. The project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act as well as San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and additional money coming from the Congressman Pete Aguilar and Alex Padilla.
- **How many occupants can be at that hotel project.** The hotel is 60 rooms and eventually when it is full it can house 120 individuals. But currently only 15-20 rooms are being used and we only have one officer assigned to it. They have a 10pm curfew or they are locked out and there are other rules they have to abide by.
- **Advised she has a property close by to this hotel and she is having a problem with transients breaking into cars and staying in them.** Officer Summers advised he will get with her after the meeting to get more information so they can check it out.
- **On Arrow and Citrus there is a new building that has trailers in the parking lot, he heard those trailers are for homeless people as well.** Officer Summers advised that new building is City Link which is ran by Water of Life Church. That facility will be a homeless shelter and those trailers are currently housing homeless people, they could have people staying inside the building as well once construction is completed.
- **Lives on Catawba and Randall, she submitted a request to paint the curb red on 311 and also had neighbors attend the meeting as well. It is dangerous at night there and there is van that constantly parks just as they pull out and can't see on coming vehicles. It is dark in the area and there are a lot of vehicles who speed, race and do donuts in the area.** Lt. Tusant advised if they are doing donuts or speeding, please call us, if there is a certain time that you are seeing more activity let us know as well so officers might be able to focus on that area at that particular time. Rob Rigby with Public Works advised the request was forwarded to Traffic Engineering to see if it warrants a red painted curb. Ruben with Traffic Engineering advised on Randall and San Bernardino Avenue from Juniper to Catawba there is currently a project there to do street improvements and they are currently holding off on the red painted curb until all the work is completed.
- **They have a problem with commercial vehicles in their neighborhood.** Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil advised she will get the information and will handle it.
- **Advised he was born and raised here and things have changed a lot. There are a lot of abandoned vehicles everywhere. He lives near Valley and Palmetto.** Lt. Tusant advised a couple of meetings ago we did a huge project in that area where we towed a lot of vehicles. If it seems like they are coming back, please call us and we will work on it if there is a problem. Officer Sherwood advised he does about 30-

40 72-hour notices a day as a unit they probably do over 1000 in a week. It is a huge problem in the city, but they are constantly working on it.

- **Is the swap meet on Valley Fontana or County?** Lt. Tusant advised it is Fontana's jurisdiction.
- **What is the city doing to safeguard our elections? She received two ballots for a person who never lived at her home. How are we preparing for the elections?** Lt. Tusant advised every election we are made aware of where the polling places are and we try to keep the peace but actually the county manages the actual election.
- **Is there going to be a drop off box for the election at the city again?** City Manager Matt Ballantyne advised yes City Hall will have a drop off box for the ballots.
- **At Randall Pepper Elementary School, people are parking their vehicles where it is difficult for the crossing guards to cross kids safely.** Ruben with Traffic Engineering advised the city is currently working on a project that will help with that. Once the street improvements are done then they will be able to look at the crosswalk buffer. It should be 20 feet from the crosswalk.
- **Alder at Pine and Athol on the eastside. The line of sight is blocked by traffic of Delores Huerta Elementary School.**
- **Does anyone take down signs that have been put up on poles such as yard sale signs or just random business signs?** City Manager Matt Ballantyne advised yes Public Works is responsible for taking down signs on poles. Cynthia Gil with Code Compliance advised if the signs are on private property like in a parking lot that is something Code Compliance can address however on the street poles that would be public works. Raul with Public Works Landscaping advised he has also advised their landscaping crews to remove signs when they see them on poles.

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#### Next Meeting

**December 2, 2024 at 6:30pm at Cypress Neighborhood Center (8380 Cypress Avenue)**