

AREA 3 COMMUNITY MEETING

MINUTES

December 2, 2024 6:30 PM | Cypress Neighborhood Community Center Area Commander Lt. Chris Tusant

In Attendance

Lt. Chris Tusant, Utilities & Streets Supervisor Rob Rigby, Landscape Technician Jose Orozco, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Cynthia Gil, Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian, DA Victim's Advocate Sharleen Ormonde-Large, Councilmember John Roberts, Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Officer Summers, Officer Jones, Officer Isaccs, Officer Carreon, Officer Nicely, Officer Bagley, Officer Chuy.

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.
- Usually, we would have an update from the Community Enrichment program to update everyone on however there wasn't one within the last couple of months in the area however there is one coming up and we will have an update at the next meeting.
- Officer Bagley explained the Community Enrichment program and how areas are determined by the traffic unit. He mentioned areas are determined based on the complaints received through the 311 program. They go through the neighborhood and address any parking issues any moving violations anything that can be enforced will be.
- Stats for Area 3
 - All the numbers came down in every category which is great.
 - 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.
 - Generally, property crimes decrease from September to November. During the holidays thefts and suicides increase when the weather is warm crime increases, when the weather is cold and wet or windy crime will decrease.
 - New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day are known for drinking, fights, domestic issues and traffic accidents.
 - 4th of July we get a lot of drunk in public calls, fights, domestic issues, and traffic accidents.
 - On Thanksgiving we see an increase in drunk in public calls, fights, traffic accidents and suicides.
 - 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	September	October	November
Robbery	9	7	8
Burglary	11	14	4
Larceny	46	56	38
Motor Vehicle Theft	24	24	23
Arson	1	0	2
Destruction of property	19	20	16
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0	0
Fraud	8	11	11
Embezzlement	2	6	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0
Stolen Property	10	16	10
Crime Against Property Total	131	154	112

- Crimes Against Society:

Offenses	September	October	November
Drugs	22	36	21
Drug Equipment	34	37	26
Gambling	0	0	0
Pornography	10	13	0
Prostitution	0	0	0
Weapons	7	11	10
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0
Crime Against Society Total	73	97	57

- Shopper Safety-

- Shop with a companion if possible.
- Limit the number of bags or high-end items you have.
- Use a blanket to cover items on the floorboard or use the trunk to conceal valuables.
- Leave your purse at home, only carry what you need such as a limited amount of cash and your bank or credit cards and ID on your person.
- Watch your mirrors for potential follow vehicles. If you notice a vehicle following you do not go home. If you have to drive to the police department or even call the police department while you are driving (hands free of course) .
- Switch up your routes of travel when returning home.
- When in doubt call 911.
- Also be aware if you place your Christmas tree by a window with your presents under the tree make sure to keep the presents out of view from the public.

- Contact information for Lt. Tusant:
 - (909) 350-7706
 - ctusant@fontanaca.gov
 - City Website: Fontanaca.gov
 - Instagram: @fontanaPD and @fontanapd_airsupport

Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil

- Weed Abatement-We are currently in our 2nd weed abatement season of the year. If you have received a notice that you have weeds on your property, you have 30 days from the date on the letter to have the weeds removed from the property, if they are not removed within that time frame then a warrant will be issued to have our city contractor go on to the property to remove any weeds or trash from the property. The cost incurred by this would be the responsibility of the property owner. A lien will be placed on the property until the fees are paid.

Mayor Acquanetta Warren

- The end of January she plans on walking neighborhoods to talk to people to find out what people are wanting for the community, what their concerns are etc.
- The city has PATH which helps the community with beds for the Homeless population. We currently have 120 beds. We are doing research right now and we have a lot of challenges that we are working through with the program, but it is helping.
- Currently working on getting funding to help Citylink to get people into the trailers that you see in front of their new facility at Citrus/Arrow.
- The city has also bought a new apartment building to help house some homeless people, there will be rules and they have to graduate from a transitional program to be placed there.

Questions

- **When he looks at his complaint, he submitted on the 311 system it says that it is closed however the issue is still there.** Officer Bagley advised usually our CSO's print out the complaints and sometimes it will show closed when they haven't' gone out yet it doesn't necessarily mean it is closed, it was just because they printed out the complaint to address it. If you have any questions regarding a specific complaint, you can always call our traffic unit to get an update on the complaint.
- **The traffic around Mango Elementary School is horrible, people double park making it a huge nightmare in that area.** Lt Tusant advised we have tons of schools with the same problem all throughout the city. We do take the complaints seriously and our traffic unit does go out to the schools on a rotation to try to address the traffic issues.
- **Traffic in the city is horrible, just in general. But especially along the 210 and Citrus, the traffic flow there is horrible.** Traffic Engineer Ruben advised all of the city's traffic signal technicians do live in the city, which helps because they are driving the same streets everyone is and they are able to see when there is an issue with a traffic sign that needs to be adjusted. The problem with the flow at the 210 and Citrus is that the Cal Trans oversees the lights over the freeway and they are very hard to work with so when they make a change to the traffic pattern they usually don't let us know so it takes a couple of days

for us to catch us to adjust our city ran lights to work with theirs over the freeway. Anytime we have a new development in the city we always monitor traffic flow to make sure it is working properly. We have also received a grant from the Federal Government to try out some new traffic signals so you will start seeing some new technology throughout the city.

- **We have new apartments being developed all over, how do we monitor the need for parking in and around the development.** When the developer is going through the planning process, we try to find a balance for everything from parking, to how the streets will be impacted once the project is completed. Mayor Warren advised a lot of the issues we are seeing are related to population and what the state has done and is requiring, due to the housing shortage. We tried to not have so many apartments, but we are required to have them by the state. If you go to Costco, we have the highest visited Costco in the Area here in our city, if you have gone there, you will know that it is so hard to find a parking spot, but we have great staff that are always trying to make sure things are getting done as the city is growing.
- **Catawba/Randall/San Bernardino Avenue there is a lot of graffiti in the area, it is marked with HAP and is constantly using the same letters all around the neighborhood.** Lt. Tusant advised we have a program that will track any of the graffiti in the area so if there is an abundance of graffiti that looks the same and if someone is arrested for one of those, all of the graffiti they have ever done that can be tracked back to them and will be placed on the case to be charged. We have the ability to link all the incidents together.
- **Racing along Catawba and Randall.** Lt. Tusant clarified if it was cars actually lining up to race or they were just speeding in the area. It was mentioned they were just speeding late at night on the streets.
- **More lighting is needed along Catawba and San Bernardino Avenue as it is very dark.** Ruben with Traffic Engineering advised we have a limited budget for new lights throughout the city, however if it is a safety issue than that is something that the city can put in a request from So Cal Edison to have a light installed.
- **The city has made the east/west streets bike lanes taking away one whole lane of traffic. It is creating more traffic. Also, on the DMV test it asked a question about the color of the bike lane and he noticed that in Fontana the color is white but he got that wrong on the test because the DMV said it should be green.** Ruben with Traffic Engineering advised the green color is actually a recommendation not a requirement and it is a new trend so the city of Fontana currently has their bike lanes still as white.
- **When did the city change the 4 lanes street to two lanes to accommodate the bike lanes?** Some of the areas are actually more efficient with the two lanes rather than the four.
- **Why would the city put a signal light when half the street is a dead end, specifically talking about Tokay and Arrow?** When new development comes in that means improvement on roads and signals and this was one of those improvements because of the new Water of Life facility there.
- **Lives on Ivy and from Foothill to Arrow, there has been about 7 people who died on that street in the last 43 years and there is still no stop light there. Going one way there is a 25 mph sign but going the other way there are no signs at all.**
- **What does the Police Foundation do?** The foundation gives us a way to do good things for the community. It also gives us the non-profit status so that we can accept donations. Our COPE Unit does our Coffee with Cop events, and all those events are posted on our social media platforms, so keep an eye out for those.
- **Wanted to thank officers for how quickly they handled the man with a machete call at 16970 Marygold Avenue, it was in the morning and there is a bus stop for students nearby and this guy was out there waving a machete around, officers arrived quickly and took care of the problem.** We have a new program which allows officer to hear 911 calls as they are coming into dispatch so they can be on their way as soon as the call comes in which has helped with our response times.

- **Kudos to the emergency services as there was a fire near their home and everyone worked quickly to get it put out without any other structural damage to any others.**
- **What is going on with Animal Control, heard they are no longer with the Riverside County Shelter.** There were some contractual issues. Lt. Tusant advised he will get the information and pass it along to everyone.
- **When Community Service programs open up such as basketball and soccer they fill up quickly, is there any way to get more opportunities to get the kids involved before it books up and we are placed on a wait list.** Mayor Warren suggested they speak with Community Services to get put on a list to get notified when the programs are going to be opening up so you can be the first one to get a chance to sign up.
- **What is the new building at Citrus/Arrow?** It is the new Citylink that is ran by the Water of Life Church to help us combat Homelessness.
- **What is considered an emergency and when is the right time to use 911?** 911 is used for emergency calls meaning an in-progress type of call or a life or death call.
- **When will Aldi's be opening up.** It should be opening soon.
- **Any plans for the old Rite Aid next to Aldi's?** Nothing as of yet that we know of.
- **What is the zoning along Arrow?** It depends on the location, it could be mixed use.
- **Does Mixed Use mean warehouses?** No, it means housing and commercial/retail.
- **Have noticed more semi-trucks going down Citrus recently.** Our Traffic Unit is well aware of the truck traffic along citrus. Our officers take it very seriously and most of the time the truck drivers just need to be educated that it is not a truck route.

Next Meeting

April 14, 2025 at 6:30pm at Citrus Elementary School (16041 Randall Avenue)