

MINUTES

Area 2 Community Meeting

March 18, 2025 6:30 PM | Heritage Neighborhood Center Area Commander Lt. Matt Kraut

In Attendance

Lt. Matt Kraut, Officer Bagley, Landscape Technician Sergio Quiroz, Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian, Engineering Shawn Matejcek, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil, Marketing and Economic Development Manager Monique Carter, Engineering Manager Jeff Kim, Public Works Director Gia Kim, Kfon Vanessa Antekeier, Public Works Manager Kyle Scibner, Public Works Manager Dan West, Deputy City manager Phillip Burum Councilmember Phillip Cothran, Mayor Acquanetta Warren

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 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 to address the ongoing quality of life issues. It was started years ago to help fix long term issues within neighborhoods. Lt. Kraut advised he has time to focus on finding resolutions to issues within neighborhoods. But 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.
- These meetings are ran by the police department as a central point of contact to help the community with area issues.
- Things within the city are going well, we are hiring officers, 10 just got off training last week, and we have several going to the upcoming academy.
- Since the officers are now off of training, that allows us to back fill some positions that have been opened for extended periods of time. We will be adding more commercial officers which will help with the commercial trucks in the city.
- 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.

Mayor Acquanetta Warren and Councilmember Phillip Cothran

- Mayor advised she is happy everyone came out to the meeting tonight. She lives in the area and is happy everyone was there. Thanked everyone for attending.
- Councilmember Cothran advised he also lives in the area for the last 5 years. There are many wonderful projects coming up in the area which include improvements to the roads and sidewalks. Knows everyone is concerned with the water rates and the city is too which is why we would like to hear anyone's suggestions or creative ideas that will help the city with how to use/save water.
- Councilmember Cothran advised the city is continuing to grow and we know it is important that we hire more officers so that is what we are doing.
- Mayor Warren thanked everyone who helped pass the sales tax. We were on the path to have no money however because of the sales tax passing we will be good. We will be adding good businesses in the area as well and 50% of that sales tax will be going to the infrastructure here in the city.

Weed Abatement-Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil

- What does weed abatement consist of?
 - The City of Fontana Code Compliance division conducts semi-annual weed and waste inspections throughout the City of Fontana.
 - These inspections occur in Spring and Fall seasons (April and October)
 - If weeds and trash are observed on your property, a notice will be mailed with a 30-day compliance date.
 - Notices are posted on vacant lots.
- What is the purpose of weed abatement?
 - To address fire hazards
 - The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that owners maintain their property free of nuisance conditions as required by the Fontana Municipal Code.
- Property Owner's Responsibilities.
 - Weeding the subject property (residential, commercial, vacant lots) by mowing and or discing as well as performing any necessary handwork along fence lines, sidewalks, parkways, driveways, curb/gutters, streets or structures.
 - Cleaning the subject property of all green waste, solid waste, trash and debris.
- What is considered a violation?
 - Green waste-Overgrown, dead, or decaying vegetation, tall green grass and weeds 1 inch in height and anywhere from 1%-100% of the parcel.
 - Solid waste-Trash, junk, debris, etc.
- More information:
 - More information can be found at <https://www.fontana.org/2739/weed-abatement>
 - Contact the Code Compliance Division at (909) 854-8020.

Rebranding Fontana-Monique Carter-Marketing Manager City of Fontana and Steven Lambert with 20/20 Network

- The city is trying to rebrand itself and we would like to ask for everyone's feedback. Monique introduced Steven Lambert with 20/20 Network who will be asking a few questions about everyone perception of the City of Fontana. Monique along with Mayor Warran and Councilmember Cothran stepped out of the room to make sure everyone is comfortable and speaks freely.

- Steve informed everyone that he was asked to come tonight to try to get an understanding of people's take on the image of Fontana. Can the city do a better job of branding itself, a better job of attracting customers to the city, a better job of attracting businesses to come to Fontana.
- Advised he has been working with the city for the past 10 years and has noticed a thriving economy and a growing community.
- Asked the audience: What is it that you like, what you don't like, how long have you lived here?
 - She has lived here since 1993, she likes the walking paths and the city facilities. She likes that we have pickle ball courts and promote an active lifestyle throughout the city.
 - She has been here for 25 years and she like that Fontana is centrally located to almost everything.
 - Her and her husband have been here all their lives and even graduated from Fontana High School in 1990. The reason she moved to the village of Heritage is because of the Etiwanda School district, advised they seem to be better than the Fontana School district and felt it was the right move for their growing family to be in a better school district.
 - She has lived here for 31 years, 9 of those years she was the happiest person until her neighbor decided to build a porch on her property line. The city engineer told her it was on her property line, and it was very hard to purchase a home as a single black woman back in 1993 but she did it.
 - Moved here 5 years ago from Chino and they liked the small town feel of Chino but couldn't afford it there, so they came to Fontana because it has a similar feel. Schools are easily accessible, there is a sense of family, a sense of community in Fontana.
 - Been here 30 years, was looking for a nice place to raise their children and feel safe. She said when she calls the police, they are usually there within 5 minutes and asked if the community is still on Mello-roos?
- Asked what would be one word you would use to describe the city of Fontana?
 - Safe
 - Value
 - Community
- What we have found is there is an experience in Fontana.
 - The ability to purchase a home in Fontana is an experience.
 - The ability to start a family here in Fontana is an experience.
 - Safety within Fontana is an experience.
 - Asked if experience resonates with everyone.

Village of Heritage Pavement Safety Enhancement and Sidewalk Reconstruction Project

- The program is designed to take care of damages to the streets due to the pine trees along W. Liberty Loop and E. Liberty Loop Parkway.
- Most of the damage is on the inner lane close to the median and along the parkways.
- Roots of the trees are what is damaging the pavement.
- There has been ongoing patchwork which includes removing the roots and fixing the streets.
- However, with this program we will be removing a lot of the trees that are causing damage in the area.
- 81 trees will be removed and a total of 88,00 sq ft of asphalt work will be done.
- Schedule for work to be completed:
 - Tree Removal will take place during summer of 2025.
 - Replanting new trees will start spring of 2026 because that is the best season to plant new trees.

- The sidewalk reconstruction project will happen in phases. Phase 1 has already been completed in 2024. Phase 2 will begin Summer of 2025, Phase 3 will be scheduled for later on in 2025 and then continuous maintenance will be done on an as needed basis.
- This sidewalk reconstruction project will address tree root lifting the sidewalks.
- With this project some trees will be removed for safety enhancement, to avoid potential tripping hazards.

Questions

- **Annie with Partners Against Violence wanted to let everyone one know they are a nonprofit organization that provides support to survivors of sexual violence. The services they provide are confidential and available at no cost to the survivor, their significant other, and family members. Some of the services provided are Crisis response, accompaniment, counseling, advocacy and education. They offer a 24/7 crisis hotline; they provide and advocate to be with the survivor during medical exams and legal appointments.**
- **Does the city still offer the “Who you Gonna call” paper because she is currently using an old one.** Mayor Warren advised in the back of the community book there is a list of updated phone numbers.
- **Does the rebranding use social media to see what people are saying about Fontana because on there, there are good and bad things that are said about the city.** Steve Lambert with 20/20 Network advised they do monitor social media platforms, that is a big part of what they do.
- **When will repaving be done on Yorktown, it hasn’t been paved in 31 years.** Deputy City Manager Phillip Burham advised the sales tax that passed will help complete repaving streets in Heritage, the project is going to cost somewhere around \$35 million and is part of the city’s 7-year plan.
- **Are you going to be planting California Native trees.** Public Works Manager Dan West advised we will be working with an arborist to make sure we make the right decisions when it comes to choosing trees. We know they will not be pine trees. We will be looking for the best long-term solution. We work with West Coast Arborist. Mayor Warren advised we have a lot of residents emailing us about different trees to use, Deputy City Manager Phillip Burham advised we have a very specific list of trees that are allowed to be used in the city.
- **Will there be a mass mailing going out to everyone letting them know about the tree removal because you can have a PR nightmare on your hands if you start taking all the trees out without letting anyone know especially during the summer and there are no trees left to shade the walking trail.** Mayor Warren advised we will be getting the word out, which is why we have the presentation tonight, but we will be putting it in the mailers that go out to everyone’s home, we can also use the electronic signs to get the word out.
- **Are other streets going to be repaved as well beside Liberty Loop like Lemon.** The repaving of the other streets are covered under the 7 year plan so yes it will eventually be repaved. Kyle Scibner advised we have already patched up 3200 potholes this year last year we fixed over 6000.
- **The dog park on Baseline, where are you supposed to park?** That park was designed to be walked to, in fact that park was added over an existing parking lot.
- **The E. Heritage Elementary School has been using a lot that is gravel for their child pick up line.** Councilmember Cothran advised he spoke with a couple of Etiwanda School District Board members, and they didn’t know that was happening. We are currently working together on a solution.
- **Is there any way to get lighting in the crosswalks near the water fountain, she has almost been hit there so many times because it is pitch black.** Ruben with Traffic Engineering advised we can add flashing beacons but if there is ever a need for additional lighting, please let us know via the 311 system and we can work with Edison to hopefully get that installed.

- **Have seen cameras going in everywhere, is there a way to get them in the locations where they are doing donuts.** Lt. Kraut advised those are not normal cameras, those are actually license plate readers.
- **There are a lot of people who walk dogs without leashes, and she has an electric stick she carries around with her to shock them.**
- **There is an issue with long trains that go through Fontana. He was at the senior center, and one came by that was about 2 miles long, is anything being done to make an overpass over the railroad tracks, so the train doesn't stop people from say going to the hospital in an emergency.** Mayor Warren advise that would be a huge project somewhere around \$112 million or more. As of right now there aren't any plans to get that started.
- **Has there been any talks about banning fireworks.** Councilmember Cothran advised in 2006 the city council banned fireworks however there was a ballot initiative that passed shortly after because residents wanted to keep the fireworks, so the only way to have the fireworks banned is to take it to the ballot again. Any firework that is shot up in the air higher than 6 ft is considered an illegal firework and those are not allowed within the city. We currently are launching a new drone program which will be used for firework detection, these aren't your normal drones these fly thousands of feet in the air.
- **Would it be easier for enforcement if all fireworks were banned?** Lt. Kraut advised he didn't know if it would make a difference or not, but the problem is you have half of the community who love fireworks and the other half hate them, it is very rare that we find anyone in the middle, so it might be hard to ban fireworks altogether. Councilmember Cothran advised the thing with fireworks is that it is a money maker for several non-profits, and they usually bring in approximately half a million in profits for these organizations.
- **Is it a crime for defacing the streets when they do donuts?** Lt. Kraut advised when they do the donuts the are driving recklessly and now that we have more officers, we will be able to do more patrol in the areas where there are issues. If you see a pattern of what days and times, they are more likely doing donuts let us know so we can get officers out to the area.
- **Why can't we make it physically impossible for them to do donuts on our street with like speed bumps.** Ruben with Traffic Engineering advised speed humps do not just affect the speeders or people doing donuts it can also slow down emergency vehicles from getting to their next call, so before we put speed humps, we tend to look at other tools we have that can combat some of those issues. Usually speed humps can be installed, we can also put temporary ones if we need to.
- **Lighting on Liberty/Grand, it is dangerous for a kid to cross all 4 lanes, maybe if we can get some flashing lights in that area it might help.**
- **Wanted to inquire about street sweeper signs on Joshua Tree because no one on their street moves their vehicle when the street sweeper comes through so the street sweeper can not clean the street properly.**

Next Meeting

July 29, 2025 @ 6:30 PM at Almeria Middle School