

AREA 3 COMMUNITY MEETING

MINUTES

April 14, 2025 6:30 PM | *Citrus Elementary School* Area Commander Lt. Chris Tusant

In Attendance

Lt. Chris Tusant, Landscape Technician Sergio Quiorz, Community Policing Technician Amber Smith, Code Compliance Cynthia Gil, Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian, Officer Sherwood, KFON Vanessa Antekeier, ASO Supervisor Vanessa Valverde, ASO Ashley Cockcroft, Captain Brian Binks

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 on weekend graveyard shift. 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.
- Since Captain Binks informed everyone that a new Area Commander will be coming in, Lt. Tusant wanted everyone to know that Lt. Clabaugh comes from the same background he does and he has no doubt that he will continue to work for them as he did.
- Things going on in Area 3:
 - Crime overall is down.
 - Proactive time is up.
 - Response time continually gets faster, this is due to the Live 911 system we have implemented where officers have the ability to hear 911 calls as they come into our dispatch center so they can respond right away when something is occurring.
 - Officers are contacting more people, making more contact with unhoused individuals as well.
 - We are getting more comfortable with the structured laws we have to enforce.
- Contact information for Lt. Tusant:
 - (909) 350-7706
 - ctusant@fontanaca.gov
 - City Website: Fontanaca.gov
 - Instagram: @fontanaPD and @fontanapd_airsupport

Captain Brian Binks

- Thanked everyone for coming out but had some bad news for Area 3.
- The department is making some changes and Lt. Tusant will no longer be the Area Commander for Area 3 in about 3 weeks.

- Lt. Tusant is going to a different assignment and will be assigned to the Investigations Unit.
 - Area 3 will be getting Lt. Clabaugh.
-

ASO Supervisor Vanessa Valverde

- During the last meeting there were some questions about the shelter situation, and she is here to address those, and any other questions people might have.
 - As of July 1st 2024, we are now contracting with San Bernardino City Animal Shelter, with that comes some changes as to how we handle some calls.
 - The shelter is open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm with the exception of Wednesday when they are open until 7pm.
 - Some of the changes include:
 - The shelter does not take any owner surrendered dogs.
 - They do not accept cats, since cats are considered free roaming animals in the State of California and there is no law to enforce anything on cats.
 - If you have any questions, you can always email Animal Services at AnimalServices@fontanaca.gov.
-

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.

Questions

- **What if we have a cat that is a continual nuisance?** There isn't much that can be done unless the cat is sick or injured. However, feral cat life span is on average 3 years.

- **What is the protocol for stray dogs?** ASO Supervisor Vanessa advised you can report them on Fontana 311 on the app or by calling 311 if you are within city limits. However, if the dog is aggressive, you can call our dispatch because that is a call we would like to handle right away.
- **How many calls on average to you field?** ASO Supervisor Vanessa advised it depends but generally in the winter we get about 20-30 calls a day and in the summer, it bumps up to 40-45 calls a day. Each officer on average has the ability to respond to about 15 calls a day. Yesterday there was about 30 calls and the on-call officer had to be called in. We have a total of 6 Animal Services Officers and one supervisor, and we are currently looking to hire one more officer as there is a position open currently, so if you know of anyone interested, please have them apply.
- **Where is the Animal Shelter located.** It is in San Bernardino near Orange Show located at 333 Chandler Place in San Bernadino. The San Bernardino Police Department oversees the shelter, and they now have a vet on staff there.
- **So Devore Animal Shelter isn't in the contract?** ASO Supervisor Vanessa advised Devore Animal Shelter is not in the contact, only the City of San Bernardino Shelter.
- **Is junk on a trailer considered hazardous?** Code Compliance Inspector Cynthia Gil advised if it is on private property that is something that Code Compliance can address, usually when it is on the street they don't have any jurisdiction over that that would have to be handled by the police department.
- **Advised he complained about the same issue last year and it was cleaned up for a little bit however all the vehicles and trailers are back, the neighbors are running a business from the location and is causing a nuisance in the neighborhood, address is 9755 Tullock, there are 4-5 cars parked in the driveway and multiple cars double parked on the street everyday.** Lt. Tusant advised if they are just parking in the street and they are legally parked there isn't much that can be done, however he will go out to the location and if there are obvious violations then we will be able to take enforcement actions. Lt. Tusant advised he will personally look into what kind of business is being run from the location.
- **In March she emailed Lt Tusant, CPT Amber Smith and one of the Councilmember's regarding some suspicious activities going on in their community, she mentioned that someone buried a camera in her neighbor's yard and they would come back for the camera, they also left a car in the neighborhood, officers were called out to the look into the situation and took the camera and also the vehicle that was left was towed, stated they are all concerned with the suspicious activity.** Lt. Tusant advised he doesn't remember getting an email regarding cameras being buried anywhere but asked her to get with him after the meeting so he can get the information. He mentioned if any suspicious activity going on makes you feel uncomfortable call dispatch to have an officer go out to investigate what is going on.
- **Why are a lot of people scratching off the paint on their license plates, she has seen a lot of that all around.** Officer Sherwood advised there are several things going on, some people are customizing their plates and some people are taking off the reflectors on the plates making it hard for license plate readers to pick up the license plate numbers both are illegal and they can be pulled over if an officer sees that.
- **At the last meeting she expressed concern over the increase of graffiti and on her way to the meeting tonight she just noticed that there is new graffiti on their community wall.** Lt. Tusant advised her to make sure she reports it because we keep track of any graffiti in the city that way when someone is arrested for graffiti they can be held responsible for every graffiti they put up.
- **They were told that the trees were going to get trimmed in April and she just wanted to get an update of when they can expect that to be done.** Public Works Sergio Quiroz advised the work started in April and crews have until June to get the work done, so it should be completed no later than June.
- **Wanted an update of the request for red curbs on Randall and Catawba.** Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian advised as of right now they are holding off on Randall, with the completion of the bike lane that should help with the visibility and ease to pull out of the community, however, on Catawba there was no need for it at this time, unfortunately.

- **Is there any update for any lights on Catawba especially at San Bernardino Avenue because it is really dark in that area.** Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian advised there is a standard of how many lights can be installed per feet, if installing a light would be too close to the standard we usually wait until the end of the budget year to see if there are funds to have a light installed.
- **Is there any update on the sidewalks on Catawba?** Traffic Engineering Ruben Hovanesian advised we will need a request to be submitted. Any sidewalk work that was going to be completed in the area has already been completed.
- **Wanted to thank the Fontana Police Department and the Fire Department because whenever she has called everyone has been tremendously helpful.**
- **There are increasing problems with transients on Oleander from Randall to Merrill. One even jumped into her yard. This weekend there was another one in the area, is there anything that can be done with the increase of transients in the area.** Lt. Tusant advised the hardest part of dealing with the unhoused is that they do not want help. They choose to live that way and want to be left alone. Some have drug use issues and they rather be on the streets than get the help they need and because laws were changed our hands were tied because courts were no longer able to force them into rehab but now we have 2 full time teams to deal with the unhoused throughout the city. Cpt. Binks advised the City is currently developing a Forge District which will help us with dealing with the issue. We also have Water of Life who provide assistance, the city also purchased a hotel on Valley that is called Path and that is considered a transitional living facility. Because we didn't have any place to house the unhoused, we were unable to enforce anything but now that we have resources to place them and if they decided they do not want the help then we can arrest them for various reasons. Currently laws are changing back to how it used to be, which will help us in dealing with these unhoused individuals especially if they are in possession of drugs. Captain Binks advised we are the most proactive city within the county when it comes to unhoused individuals. The forge district will be at the very end of Fontana on the Southwest end that borders Ontario, it is in the warehouse area away from residential areas.
- **There is an issue with the lights at Citrus and Highland going over the 210 freeway.** Traffic Engineering Ruben advised the issue with that area is that the lights over the 210 freeway are controlled by CalTrans and sometimes when the electricity goes out everything is reset which throws off the signals and it usually takes CalTrans a while to get them back running the way they should be.
- **Illegal Fireworks continue to be an issue.** Lt. Tusant advised the problem with illegal fireworks is the ease of access to the illegal fireworks. We have officers who run several programs geared to make buys of illegal fireworks from people selling them and CHP also has a program where they are trying to catch people bringing them in as well. The problem is our officers have to actually see them light the firework in order to write a citation and some people got smart and are lighting them in their backyards so we can't see them.
- **How are our fire hydrants in the area, do they work, are they checked to make sure they work.** A resident in the audience advised he works for the Fontana Water Company and the only time the hydrants won't work is if someone steals them but other than that they will work, and we have great water pressure too.
- **Asked if anyone know about the status of Charlotte the homeless lady who use to be at Alder and San Bernardino.** Captain Bink said not to quote him, but he believed she had passed away.

August 11, 2025 at 6:30pm at Cypress Neighborhood Center (8380 Cypress Avenue)

Lt. Tusant ended the meeting saying he appreciates everyone he has worked with while an Area Commander for Area 3 and just because he will no longer be the Area Commander doesn't mean you can't contact him.