

**CITY OF FONTANA
FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

TO: All attendees of the Area 1 East Community Meeting
FROM: George Bloom, Lieutenant
DATE: July 23, 2008

SUBJECT: Community Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2008

Video-Children and Fire alarms

- Rebecca age 12 sleeps peacefully in her home. They set off the smoke alarm outside her bedroom and for 2 solid minutes the alarm shrieks but Rebecca does not move. It's disturbing that if parents rely on the smoke detector to wake your sleeping children that may be a fatal error. More than ½ of young children who die in home fires are asleep and one possible reason is because the smoke detectors didn't wake them up.
- You would think the sound of a smoke alarm would wake anyone up, adults yes, children no. Sleep experts say their brain waves are different. Their sleep patterns are different.
- A smoke alarm that adds a familiar voice to the warning may help waking the children up. When the new alarm is in place most children are up and out of bed faster than they would be with an ordinary smoke detector.
- Experts emphasize smoke detectors are essential in every home but in the experiment given to parents in the video it's a wake up call to their limitations. Parents can easily test this with home fire drills to see if their children will wake up with an ordinary smoke detector.

Lieutenant Bloom

- Advised he is currently the Area Commander for Area 1 East Community and everything north of the 210 freeway. If you have any questions, call him at 350-7706 or e-mail him at gbloom@fontana.org .
- For good information go to the city website at www.Fontana.org. The city's website has a link to the Police Department's website.
- Announcements:
 - Section 15-601-Fireworks are prohibited within the city. Fireworks are illegal to sell, use, or discharge anywhere within the city limits whether on public or private property.
- *Department and Area statistics:*
 - Residential Burglaries-
 - There were 14 burglaries for this quarter (This quarter last year there were 28). So residential burglaries have gone down.
 - 6 of the 14 homes were vacant which is 42% of burglaries.
 - 2 of the 14 were known suspects.

- Vehicle Burglaries-
 - 63 vehicle burglaries this quarter (this quarter last year there were 33).
 - 30 of them occurred at commercial establishments, which is 48%.
 - Out of the 30 burglaries that occurred at commercial establishments 24% happened at the gym.
- Grand Theft Auto-
 - 16 GTA's this quarter, this quarter last year there were 19.
 - 7 of the 16 were at commercial establishments. 1 was at the gym.
 - The average for the city for the last 6 months was 110 per month so this area is doing pretty good on auto thefts.
- Robbery-
 - 1 robbery occurred at Lowes and they took \$51.
 - There was another strong arm robbery of an ipod.
 - There was also a purse snatching.

Narcotics- Corporal Anderson and Officer Perniciaro

- What is an indoor grow?
 - A marijuana growing operation is best defined as an organized commercial criminal enterprise. Statistically 95% of all indoor grows are controlled by organized crime.
 - Many individuals have different roles such as purchasing/renting homes, equipping homes, tending to plants, laundering cash, and transporting the marijuana.
- Characteristics of an indoor grow
 - The residence almost always has an attached garage to facilitate the loading and unloading of equipment and products without being detected by neighbors or police.
 - The owner usually does not live in the newly acquired residence but has the bedrooms and uncommon area rooms converted into grow rooms.
 - Residence from the outside appears normal and appears as lived in; the lawn is cut, the driveway is clear, garbage is put to the curb on designated trash days.
- Electrical by-pass
 - The by-pass of electricity is bypassed around the revenue meter. As the power is diverted into the residence it is redistributed through a secondary breaker and into the operation. The procedure involves cutting into live residential wires and is very dangerous.
- Electrical wiring
 - The electrical wiring for a grow house is sophisticated, unique and requires a great deal of electrical expertise to assemble.
 - The stolen electricity is used to power large lights, fans, and other grow equipment.
- Ventilation
 - Elaborate ventilation systems are used to bring excessive heat from the lighting out of the growing areas and into the attic venting into surrounding neighborhoods.

- Often the growers try to conceal the small of the marijuana by using air purification systems or vent during the night time hours.
- Chemicals
 - Indoor marijuana growing operations use growth promoting fertilizers and chemicals that are dangerous if not handled properly.
- Residence
 - It is not unusual to have all the windows to a grow house covered from within.
 - The windows, especially the upstairs, are covered first by blinds or curtains then by wood and reflective material.
- Stages
 - The grow operations are often set up in three stages in order to spread out the work involved in the harvesting and to provide steady income.
 - The environment is controlled artificially in order to maximize output of the grow.
 - In such an ideal environment a plant can mature in a little as three months.
- Persons at risk
 - Electrical Contractors (read meters and service power outages)
 - Neighbors
 - Police Officers (entering, containing, and investigating the grow house)
 - Firemen (that attend to a grow house fire, 1 in 10 catches fire)
- Who are the victims-You are
 - You and other electric consumers paying for the millions of dollars lost in utility theft.
 - You and the insurance companies who pay to have homes repaired when the land owner pleads ignorance.
 - You or prospective purchasers of a home that was formerly a grow house.

Traffic- Officer Joshua Macmillan

- Advised Sgt Stover is being promoted to Lieutenant so Traffic has a new Sergeant. Sgt. Morris is taking over so things will be a little slow for a bit but they will pick right back up soon.
- Community Enrichment Program- The traffic unit was in the area in March and there were 27 vehicles impounded, 145 parking citations issued and 5 moving violation citations issued. We currently do not have another schedule in the area in the near future but they should do another one hopefully before the next meeting.

THE ITEMS IN BOLD PRINT REFLECT ACTIONS TAKEN

Concerns of Area 1 East residents

- Advised they had an experience they looked out their bedroom window and saw 2 juveniles go in the neighbor's yard. She advised she called 911 and got a recording and after 9 minutes someone finally answered.

Lt. Bloom advised any phone calls that are made from a cell phone to 911 they usually go to CHP. So if you have another situation like this please calls 350-7700.

- Advised she completed the Citizen's Academy and encourages everyone to take the class.
- Advised they were victims of a burglary and everything was slashed. Advised she called police and ½ hour later called her son and daughter who live in Walnut and they came before the police officer showed up. Advised it was about 2 hours before a police officer got there. Advised the police didn't respond to the alarm but the alarm was going off. Advised ADT paid for all the property that was damaged. ***Lt. Bloom advised all calls are prioritized and if it's not a burglary in progress it will be put at the tail end but if something with a high priority happens we'll send officers to that first. We have had very few successful burglaries when the alarm is activated but it sounds like if ADT paid for the damaged property maybe they didn't call the police department to let us know.***
- Asked if there was a curfew at the park because there is a lot of activity. ***Lt. Bloom advised the park closes at 10 pm if anyone is out there after that give us a call.***
- Asked what time is the curfew for parties. ***Lt. Bloom advised technically there is no time for parties but if it disturbs your peace you can call the police anytime of the day. We can now issue citations for that.***
- Where is the ordinance at for abandoned vehicles because he heard that it was being re-written because of legal ramification. ***Lt. Bloom advised it shouldn't be too long before it's taken care of and it's back in place.***
- Asked what facilitates Neighborhood Watch. ***Lt. Bloom advised to call Amber Smith at (909) 350-7710 to start a Neighborhood Watch program in your area. Meetings are held Monday through Thursday, there is no limit to how many neighbors you get to be involved, the group can be as big or as small as you would like it.***
- Advised she has had a problem with a barking dog in her neighborhood. Asked who she calls for that. ***Lt. Bloom advised to call animal control and they will give you steps to follow to deal with that issue.***
- Advised in the Sierra Lakes area around 10 or 11 at night near the Landmark side near the golf course there is a car that parks there with 4 kids in there smoking marijuana it's a regular thing. ***Cpl. Anderson advised that marijuana is a weak violation, there is also a problem if that person has a medical marijuana card they are allowed to smoke it. Advised they will look into the problem.***
- Asked if meth as been prominent in the area. ***Cpl. Anderson advised it's pretty prevalent now but it's a party drug, we rarely see any meth labs because most of the meth is coming from Mexico. If they find meth labs they are usually very small.***

- Asked when the off ramp at the 210 and Citrus will be fixed with two left turn lanes instead of one. **Officer Macmillan advised that is controlled by Caltrans and that's something they will have to change, we have no authority to change that. Officer Billings advised she knows Officer Wessman has been sitting there and watching but as far as making a lane change it's all up to CHP.**
- Asked if the signal length could be changed there. **Officer Macmillan advised that would also be handled by Caltrans.**
- Advised she has seen a lot more speeders on Augusta with the loud exhaust pipes and loud music. **Officer Macmillan advised when they find out about a new problem they will address it. If you have traffic related problem call the Traffic Technician, Bonnie at (909) 350-7770.**
- Advised at Clubhouse and Augusta there are vehicles who run the stop signs going north and south constantly. Advised there needs to be a stop sign east and west also. **Officer Macmillan advised they will let Engineering know so they can come and see if it warrants a stop sign.**
- Advised Rutherford looked into it and she said there is no problem there. **Officer Macmillan advised we go off of stats and we hardly have any accidents at that location.**
- Asked how often can they assess the streets because that area has already been assessed and it still has the same problem. **Officer Macmillan advised he did not know but will ask engineering to check it out again.**
- Asked when they see graffiti in the area does that mean there are gangs in the area. **Officer Macmillan advised if it's a hardcore gang you will see a 13 around the graffiti which mean the Mexican Mafia. If you see graffiti it could just be some kid messing around. We'll see if we can get Officer Gutierrez to come to the next meeting to give a presentation on graffiti.**
- Asked when the new park opens. **Lt. Bloom advised it should be opening the beginning of fall.**
- Asked if the park is going to be free. **Lt. Bloom advised he don't know.**
- Advised she is having a problem with a tree hanging over the mailbox. Advised the tree is on City property and she didn't plant the tree. **Eric Garwick with the Landscaping advised he will look into it. Usually it's the responsibility of both neighbors on either side of the tree however if it's the city's responsibility we will take care of it.**
- Advised there is a house on her street that is unkempt. Asked who is responsible for keeping the house up the renter or the owner. **Mike Lee from Code Compliance advised it is a code issue. They will have to look at the property and the issues will be addressed.**
- Asked if that includes foreclosed houses. **Mike Lee advised yes if you see them call Code Compliance and let us know. If the house has brown grass there isn't anything that can be done but if it's unsecured they will do something about that.**

- Advised they had a tree that was removed because it tipped over and they came out and took the tree but never replaced it. Asked if it was a budget issues. ***Eric Garwick advised he will check into it and if it's supposed to be replanted they will reseed it.***
- Advised the community should be willing to get together and pitch in \$10 to \$15 a month to keep the grass green and keep up with the maintenance on these abandoned houses. Asked who would like to pitch in. Asked if there was any outreach programs to do weekend work to clean up the houses just like they do with parks. ***Eric Garwick advised he will have to research if the city will be able to go on private property to do improvements.***
- Asked if the Mayor can come to the next meeting and speak about the Fontana Water Company. ***Councilmember Scialdone advised the Fontana Water Company is proposing another 26% increase. The city is continuing to fight the Water Company on the increase. The city wanted to do a reclaimed water program and the Fontana Water Company threatened to sue the city. Advised Fontana Water Company has water rights in this area and we can not invite another company in to take over the district. The mayor would be the best one to speak on all the issues the city is having with the Fontana Water Company.***
- Asked if it would help if residents would write to the PUC. ***Scialdone advised yes it would help a lot. On the city website there is addresses and sample letters you can use to send the PUC letters with your concerns. Advised the Fontana Water Company is saying the pipes are contaminated that's why they say they need to increase the rates.***

THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS OCTOBER 20, 2008. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT SIERRA LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (5740 Avenal Place) AT 7:00 PM.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA BY OCTOBER 19, 2008

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THE CITY OF FONTANA COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD, KFON CHANNEL 3, GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL ANNOUNCES

**THE AREA 1 EAST COMMUNITY MEETINGS DATE, TIME, AND PLACE
DAILY.**