

**CITY OF FONTANA  
FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TO:** All attendees of the Area 1 West Community Meeting  
**FROM:** Lt. George Bloom, Area Commander Beat 1  
**DATE:** July 14, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Community Meeting Minutes of July 7, 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](mailto:gbloom@fontana.org).
- For good information go to the city website at [www.Fontana.org](http://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 appear 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.

### **Acquanetta Warren**

- Advised Janice apologizes for not being able to attend the meeting.
- Advised people were talking earlier as to why the crime wasn't so high in the area, advised it's all about how we feel about our community, this is a family environment. Advised to keep up the good work, keep emailing us.
- Make sure you check on your senior citizen neighbors because they tend to turn off their air and we are going into a flex alert and we need to make sure our neighbors are doing good dealing with the heat.

### **Mayor Mark Nuaimi**

- Fontana Water Company Update-
  - Not a City department.
  - We have been in constant battle with them.
  - Today we pay 70% to 90% more than surrounding areas.
  - They recently put in a new application for a 26% increase.
  - We need reinforcements; we need residents to contact the PUC. We need to substantiate the impact on the residents in Fontana.

- We have had success in the past with every new growth they now have to pay their own water fees.
- The city wanted to make a reclaimed water facility and they threatened to sue us.
- If a person would like to have a smaller meter you can do that, but the water company will charge more for connection fees. It's just a frustrating process.

## **THE ITEMS IN BOLD PRINT REFLECT ACTIONS TAKEN**

### **Concerns of Hunter's Ridge Residents:**

- Asked if there were any patterns or trends in reference to residential burglaries. ***Lt. Bloom advised the majority of them occur during the day time hours when people are at work. The majority of them are door kicks. Advised alarms are very effective.***
- Asked how many burglars have been caught. ***Lt. Bloom advised we catch about one or two a quarter.***
- Asked if there were any particular vehicles that tend to get hit more with burglaries. ***Lt. Bloom advised there is no specific make or model that has a higher rate of burglaries. If you leave valuables in your vehicle you are at a high risk of getting burglarized.***
- What are the hours more vehicles generally get broken into. ***Lt. Bloom advised usually they are the hours of darkness.***
- Asked why the stats are so low up in the Hunter's Ridge area compared to the rest of the city. ***Lt. Bloom advised he don't really know why it's low. We need to educate the community on how to keep from being a victim.***
- Asked if there was anything about people siphoning gas in the area. ***Lt. Bloom advised it has not been a big problem.***
- Advised they heard there was a shooting on Bridal Path about a month ago. ***Lt. Bloom advised there was a shooting on May 16<sup>th</sup> around 4pm. There were 3 gang members walking on Horseshoe Way and they were being followed by a suspicious vehicle. Advised the 3 gang members went to a resident and asked for a place to hide and guns but the resident didn't help them. The suspicious vehicle ended up catching up with the 3 and shots were fired, 1 victim was struck in the buttocks with non life threatening injury. The two gang members who weren't struck went back to the resident who didn't help them and threatened them for not helping them. Those two were arrested. The suspects were found to be outside gangsters and they were looking for those three. Two of those three were later found to be hard core gang members and the victim was just an associate.***
- Advised he use to live in Southridge and he moved up here to get away from all of this. ***Lt. Bloom advised he did get away from it. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> gang shooting since he's been the Area Commander for area 1.***

- Asked if there are any signs with the electricity in regards to marijuana grow houses neighbors should look for. **Cpl. Anderson advised neighbors will not be able to see anything unusual with the electricity because usually they do all the wiring inside the house or garage or it's covered up.**
- Asked if there were any meth houses in the area. **Cpl. Anderson advised meth has taken a big decline. The police department does come across some but they are usually small. Most meth comes from Mexico.**
- Asked if there are any Marijuana Grow Houses in this area. **Cpl. Anderson advised they haven't found any in the Hunter's Ridge area. Advised they get a lot of call of neighbors smoking it but it turns out the neighbor has a Medical Marijuana card. There are some restrictions to the card but they are allowed to grow it, usually they are allowed to have 6 mature plants and 6 immature plants.**
- Asked if there was any law of where they can grow it. **Officer Perniciaro advised they can grow it anywhere on their property. The police department relies on tips from neighbors. We want you to look for lights that come on at the same time, anything that looks suspicious, if the house seems like the windows are blocked, no matter how petty you think you're concern is please let us know so we can check into it.**
- Advised he just got a ticket he was going north on Summit, advised a lot of cars stay on the left lane and no one was on the right lane so he passed everyone. Advised this is a big problem in the area. Advised it's only one lane but people are always making it two lanes. **Lt. Bloom advised the city is aware of the problem but you can't pass car on the right and make your own lane. Mayor Nuaimi advised you probably got the ticket from CHP they have been issuing citations right there. Caltrans will need to do an environmental study; to see if that can be changed.**
- Advised so many houses are abandoned, advised neighbors are looking for anything unusual. Is there anything the city can do to force the banks to keep up the houses? Some houses are completely falling apart. **Ted Porlas from Code Compliance advised they want to know about the houses so please call and report them so Code can keep an eye on them.**
- Asked if there was something the city was trying to pass forcing the banks to have responsibility for the houses. **Mayor Nuaimi advised it's a nationwide problem with foreclosed houses. We are looking for solutions, but it's probably easier for neighbors to band together and take care of the problem. There is no easy solution. With banks you are trying to figure out who the owner is. If it's a public safety issue the city can put a lien on the house and fix the property. Acquanetta Warren advised they are taking care of their own, advised she had her son go down the street and cut the lawn. We have about 2,000**

**foreclosures. Advised it should be a block by block initiative until we get legislative relief.**

- Asked the junction at Cherry and Duncan Canyon is slated to be completed soon. **Mayor Nuaimi advised it will be completed and it will be an off ramp. The interchange project is a project the city is leading. It's hoped to be constructed in 2009 but now looks like it might be 2010. Advised the city owns the property around the 15 freeway and the overpass will help with the vision for the area. It will be redesigned for an employment center instead of having homes along the 15 corridor.**
- Is there going to be a promenade even though Walmart pulled out, are there other business going in there. **Mayor Nuaimi advised the city has a specific plan designed for that property. We are waiting for a developer or a series of developers to come in and complete the project, however we are still a couple years out.**
- Asked with the new park on Summit will there be an increase of police there. **Lt. Bloom advised we are going to meet the needs as they come along. Mayor Nuaimi advised the city approved the skate park to be managed; Jesse Turner Wellness Center will also be staffed.**
- Asked if there will be any surveillance at the park. **Mayor Nuaimi advised there might be in the Skate Park and water park.**
- Thanked Councilwoman for her dedication on the Children's Library.

**THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS OCTOBER 6, 2008. THE MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 PM AT D.W. LONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (5383 BRIDLEPATH, Fontana CA 92336)**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA BY OCTOBER 5, 2008 TO:**

AMBER SMITH  
FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
17005 UPLAND AVENUE  
FONTANA, CA 92335  
350-7710  
[asmith@fontana.org](mailto:asmith@fontana.org)

**THE CITY OF FONTANA COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD, KFON CHANNEL 3, GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL ANNOUNCES THE HUNTER'S RIDGE COMMUNITY MEETINGS' DATE, TIME, AND PLACE DAILY.**

