

**CITY OF FONTANA
FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

TO: All attendees of Area 2 Center
FROM: Orbelio Rodriguez, Lieutenant
DATE: November 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Community Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2008

Lieutenant Rodriguez

- Introductions
- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

Officer Porch and Snyder

- Advised there are 11 Gang Officers, 6 Bicycle Officers, and 2 Grand Theft Auto Investigators in the MET Unit (Multiple Enforcement Team Unit). All of the Officers work on specialized assignments.
- The Gang Officers wear a green polo shirt with the word "SMASH" (San Bernardino County Movement Against Street Hoodlums) on it. Fontana PD has the largest gang unit within San Bernardino County. The best way to get information is to stop people and talk to them. He handles all graffiti reports. He also responds to "graffiti in progress" calls. To report graffiti call 350-GONE or report it on the police department's website www.fontanapd.org. The City's graffiti team works 6 days a week, and removes graffiti within 24-48 hours. If someone is in the progress of putting up graffiti, do not try to stop them, call the Police Dispatch Center at 350-7700. Lt. Rodriguez advised that in the early 90's, San Bernardino County started the "SMASH" program. When things tapered off most Cities disbanded their gang unit. Our officers kept the uniform. Gang members know that they wear this uniform, and know how they are going to deal with them. Other agencies have started putting their gang unit back together.
- There are two types of graffiti-"Gang and Tagging"
 - Gang Graffiti-"SUR" means Southern California 13. This gang has alliances with the Mexican Mafia gang members, and Mexican prison gang members.
 - "IE" means the territory they claim. They are showing every other gang or whoever lives in the area that they are there and it is their territory. They are a large gang with smaller cliques. They have monikers that don't change.
 - "Varrio" means hood. You will always see "V" in gang graffiti.

- If a gang member is caught tagging, the officer asks for “gang enhancement” (extended sentencing) in his report that is sent to the District Attorney’s Office.
 - When the Officers do a search warrant at gang members’ homes they found their rooms usually tagged with gang graffiti (usually have gang roll call-monikers of members in their gang).
 - Tagging-Taggers usually tag by themselves or with one of two more people. Tagging is a bubbly design, large, and colorful. A tagging crew is not a gang. Most of the taggers are under 18 years of age.
 - Go to website www.fontanapd.org to report graffiti and tagging.
- About 20 Cities have this graffiti tracker computer program.
- The City’s graffiti team has a camera with a GPS tracking system in it. They download the graffiti pictures into a program that goes to a company in Long Beach called the “Graffiti Tracker”. The company link information together in a database for the 20 cities to share.
- The system has a “Gang Intelligence Report” and “Tagging Intelligence Report” tracking program that the officers use to find offenders. Can put a single moniker in the system such as “sleepy”. If the tagged monikers are identical, the officers can go to court and prove it. If arrested on felony vandalism/graffiti, they get jail time.
- The program was started on August 28, 2008. Officers have made 20 arrests since starting the program. The program has a Google map that shows where the graffiti/vandalism occurred. It has the date and time when the picture was taken. The Officers take this information to court and shows it to the judge at the suspect’s hearing.
- From August 28, 2008 to October 30, 2008 the City’s graffiti team responded to 4,567 graffiti clean-up requests. The City has now started charging the vandals a \$486 restitution fee for each of their graffiti incidents. The court is accepting our fee.
- Advised he arrested one guy for 68 graffiti/vandalism incidents. The City is charging him restitution fees for cleaning up his 68 vandalism incidents.
- The “Graffiti Tracker” has a map that shows where tagging is occurring within the City. Taggers usually tag in their area, and on their way to and from school. The program has a Google map on it so you can track tagging routes and it usually leads you where the taggers live. You can also see how many places they had tagged.
- Lt. Rodriguez advised that City Officials were shocked to see how much graffiti the City’s graffiti team has cleaned up within the last three months (when the program was implemented). The goal is to keep the City looking clean. Graffiti is a nation wide problem. Lt. Rodriguez advised it is unusual for any agency to show new equipment (Graffiti Tracker) to the general public. The City wants the bad guys to know about it, because we are going to catch them and prosecute them.

THE ITEMS IN BOLD PRINT REFLECT ACTIONS TAKEN

Concerns of Area 2 Center residents

- Asked if the city is making parents responsible for the tagging. *Officer Snyder advised we do not have anything to do with that. That is up to the court to enforce.*
- Asked if there was a relationship with schools and surrounding cities and Probation and where is the budget coming from that supplies the resources for the graffiti program. *Councilman Scialdone advised it comes out of the general fund. Officer Porch advised the School Police Chief is actually one of our Lieutenants. We have a good relationship with school police as far as other cities they are on this website as well and our MET Unit often partners with other agencies for various activities. Lt. Rodriguez advised graffiti is a national problem and we want to reduce it.*
- Asked if there is a volunteer committee who can assist with overseeing the skate park. *Officer Porch advised we do have a volunteer program, we have the neighborhood watch program and we need people to get involved. Officer Gutierrez advised the city has hired a company to make sure kids are wearing their helmets and that they have the proper safety equipment at the skate park.*
- Asked if we had any stats on how many tagging crews become gangs. *Officer Snyder advised we do not have any stats on that however he only knows of one who has done that, others have tried but the MET unit keeps an eye on them.*
- Asked if the majority of the problem with gangs and graffiti is in southern Fontana? *Lt. Rodriguez advised the problem is all over, taggers are transient. Councilmember Rutherford thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and advised the most important thing anyone can do when they see graffiti is to call 350-gone or email them.*
- Advised on Sunday the pool at the new Fontana Park was not open yet. *Councilmember Rutherford advised that so many people were in it on the grand opening and the chemical balance was off so it needed to be cleaned.*
- Advised there is a problem with the publication of the meetings asked if there could be a map included? *Advised a map should be in the next city brochure.*
- Advised at Walnut and Beech the windows get broken out all the time. *Lt. Rodriguez advised he will get with him after the meeting and look into the problem.*
- Advised he was wondering if the city has any pull with Cal Trans, advised along the 210 freeway all the landscaping looks good except when you get to Fontana. *Councilwoman Rutherford advised this is the biggest district for Caltrans but we do complain to them frequently about that but that is all we can do.*

- Asked who manages Citizen Compass because their track of homes is not on there. *Lt. Rodriguez advised he does not know but will find out.*
- Asked if there was any information on the two car jackings in the area. *Councilmember Rutherford advised one was outside of Vons and all 3 suspects were arrested, the young man did the right thing and did not resist. The other one was at Target around 9pm but we will have to get back to you with details on that one.*
- Asked about the prowler. *Lt. Rodriguez advised he is in custody; he was arrested earlier in the week.*
- Asked if there was anyway to find out if a matter has been resolved. *Lt. Rodriguez advised there is, all you have to do is give him a call.*
- Advised a neighbor to Tokay Elementary told her there was a cat burglar in the area. *Lt. Rodriguez advised he does not have any specifics on the matter.*
- Advised they just moved in a house that backs up to San Savaine and the house was broken into, asked who would they talk to about building their wall higher or are they allowed to put up cameras around their home. *Lt. Rodriguez advised if you would like to build your wall higher you will need to contact Planning because there are limitations. You can put up cameras around you home.*
- Asked if Fontana has banned fireworks. *Councilmember Scialdone advised the city has banned fireworks however the firework companies has bank rolled a petition to get it overturned. As of right now they are verifying the signatures and if they have enough then it will go to a vote.*
- Asked if storage bins are allowed in front of homes. *Mike Lee from Code Compliance advised the storage bins should be temporary but we have had calls about those before and Code Compliance is currently looking into the problem.*

THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS JANUARY 29, 2009. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT SOLORIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (15172 WALNUT) AT 6:30 PM.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA BY JANUARY 28, 2009 TO:

AMBER SMITH
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**ANNOUNCES THE COMMUNITY MEETINGS' DATE, TIME,
AND PLACE DAILY.**