

**CITY OF FONTANA
FONTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

TO: All attendees of the Area 2 Community Meeting
FROM: O. Rodriguez, Lieutenant
DATE: November 14, 2008

SUBJECT: Community Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2008

Lieutenant Rodriguez

- Introductions
- Advised residents to sign the sign-in sheet so that the minutes can be e-mailed to them.
- Advised residents that Fontana is different than a lot of other cities. We have the community meetings so that we can let the residents know what is going on in the City, to address concerns, and to answer questions. We must all work together in a partnership to maintain a high quality of life. You do not have to wait until the next meeting to ask your questions or to voice your concerns. Call him at 356-7142 or e-mail him at orodriguez@fontana.org.

Gang Officer Scott Snyder-“Graffiti In Our City” PowerPoint Presentation

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 tampered 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.

Gang Officer Scott Snyder-"Graffiti Tracker" PowerPoint Presentation

- About 20 Cities have this 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 31, 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.

Yolanda Mendoza-Fontana Unified School District School Associate Superintendent of Human Resources

- Advised the School District have put cameras at the schools, and the incidents of graffiti have gone down dramatically. The school police and the City police works together in identify graffiti suspects.
- Advised the School Police Chief is a Lieutenant from Fontana PD. The schools and the City work closely together. Therefore, both are able to do a lot of positive things.
- Advised on November 13th all of the schools that are open on this date will participate in the earthquake preparedness exercise (Southern California Great Shakeout). All of the teachers will be at the schools in case of an emergency. The School District will have periodic drills when everyone is back on track.

Laura Van Sciver-Community Services Coordinator

- Advised the residents that they can register their children to participate in the Southern California Great Shakeout. Call her at 428-8360 ext. 230.

Questions and Concerns of Area 2 East Residents

(THE ITEMS IN BOLD PRINT REFLECT ACTIONS TAKEN)

- Asked if the City's graffiti team wears protective gear because of the chemicals in the paint? **Lt. Rodriguez advised the resident that he would get his name and phone number after the meeting so that he can get the correct information for him.**
- Asked how you get restitution if they don't have a job? **Officer Snyder advised \$486 is the cost that was figured up by City Yards Officials. The court orders that this fee be paid. The parents are responsible for paying the fee if the vandal is a juvenile (under 18 years old). Some juveniles are forced by the court to do community clean-up on the weekends.**
- Asked if graffiti is seasonal? **Officer Snyder answered, no. He advised it happens any time.**
- Asked what the City is doing to people who are dumping mattresses and other items on Highland and Baseline on the east side of Palmetto and further up. **Lt. Rodriguez advised that the area is possibly in Rialto. Community Improvement Manager, Ted Porlas, advised that he**

- would get the exact location of the dumping from the resident following the meeting.
- Advised there is graffiti on the telephone poles on the west side on Baseline. **Lt. Rodriguez advised he will get the exact location after the meeting. Advised residents to call 350-GONE whenever they see graffiti any where in the City.**
 - Advised the gates to the park on Baseline/Orlando are always left open. **Erik Garwick, Parks and Landscape Supervisor, advised that this is a public park and can not be locked down. People are in and out of it cleaning it and doing other maintenance work. The park is open to the public. Lt. Rodriguez advised that all City parks close at 10:00pm. Call the Police Dispatch Center at 350-7700 if you see people in the park after this time.**
 - Lt. Rodriguez asked if anyone went to the Grand Opening of Fontana Park. Advised it was vandalized the first day it opened.
 - Advised there is not enough playing equipment at Fontana Park for the small children. Advised there are more skateboards in the children section than there is equipment. **Erik Garwick advised there are no swings at Fontana Park because all of the other parks have swings. The City was trying to do something unique at the new park. If you feel like you need slides and swings call the Community Services Department at 428-8360.**
 - Advised there are no big parks in Walnut Village. **Eric Garwick advised he would talk to the resident after the meeting about the park.**
 - Asked now that the elections are over are the candidates going to pick up their signs? **Ted Porlas advised they have 10 days after the election date to pick up their signs.**
 - Asked when the promenade is going in? **Lt. Rodriguez advised that there are issues with the landowners and some business. Advised he will find the answer to this question.**
 - Asked when is the Oleander overpass going in? **Lt. Rodriguez advised he will find out.**
 - Asked why the dog park at Fontana Park is no little and has no amenities. **Public Services Landscape Technician, Andrew Belter, advised this small piece of property was left after all of the other features were completed and someone thought it could be used as a dog park. Advised City Officials are looking at the land usage at the park, and will look at the dog park again.**
 - Asked if the City is going to try to conserve water because the water rates keep going up, and because California has not had much rainfall within the last two year. Advised he can not understand why the City has all of these water fountains. **Erik Garwick advised that the Mayor and City Council are very concerned about the water rates and a possible drought. Advised the City just received \$100,000 in grant money to support a water conservation program that the City is implementing. The City Officials have looked at a whole scope of things that will**

- conserve water (low maintenance plants and shrubby, artificial grass/turf, etc.) at the parks and other facilities. Advised he would explain the City's conservation plans to him following the meeting.**
- A resident explained that California State University San Bernardino has a research team that is doing analysis of what is in the water that flows from Lytle Creek into five Cities, including Fontana. He had brochures on this procedure. **Lt. Rodriguez asked people to get with him with their questions following the meeting.**
 - Asked what is the proper procedure for loud party noise? **Lt. Rodriguez a year ago we passed a "City Noise Ordinance". On the first notification the officer go out and contact the property owner. He makes it clear that the "aim is to end the disturbance" not the party. The officer does not tell the person who called the police department regarding the noise. The officer explains to the responsible party the City's Noise Ordinance, the Department's enforcement policy, and that "a fine will be assessed" if the disturbance is not discontinued. Call the Dispatch Center at 350-7700 if someone is have a loud party, disturbing the peace.**
 - Asked if officers still respond to house alarm calls? **Lt. Rodriguez explained that the Police Department recently instituted a "Verified Response Policy". During the fiscal year of 2005/2006 the officers responded to 8,529 burglar alarms. 99.72% of these were false, costing taxpayers approximately a quarter of a million dollars in wasted police manpower and resources. Verified Response is a program that requires the alarm or monitoring company to verify that there is a legitimate need for a police response to a location prior to officers being requested. The department found that since citizens are paying the alarm companies, the alarm companies need to hire their own company. Verified response does not apply to manually activated panic, duress, robbery alarms or medical alerts. These will continue to be treated as high priority calls. The officers now have time to do proactive work (looking for bad guys, and traffic laws violators). Right now the alarm companies are not calling. They will send someone out. The police department is concerned about public safety (see the "New City of Fontana Alarm Ordinance adopted 9/9/08" on the website www.fontanapd.org).**

THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS FEBRUARY 5, 2009. THE MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 PM AT RUBLE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA BY FEBRUARY 4, 2009 TO:

AMBER SMITH
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FONTANA, CA 92335
(909) 350-7710
asmith@fontana.org

THE CITY OF FONTANA COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD, KFON CHANNEL 3, GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL ANNOUNCES THE AREA 2 EAST COMMUNITY MEETINGS' DATE, TIME, AND PLACE DAILY.