

# MINUTES

## Area 4 Community Meeting

October 26, 2017 6:30pm | Southridge Middle School Area Commander Lt. Ronald Koval

### In Attendance

Councilmember Sandoval, Traffic Engineering Jeff Kim, Public Works Todd Heagstedt, Public Works, Mike Springer, Public works Sergio Quiroz, Traffic Officer Dough Locey, and Patrol officer Buddy Porch, Officer Mundrick, Officer Hickson and ASO Simmons.

### Lt. Ronald Koval

- Has been with the department for 29 years. Currently the Area Commander for Area 4 but has worked numerous positions throughout the department.
- What is the area commander program:
  - As part of an ongoing commitment and dedication to the Fontana Community, and in an effort to improve law enforcement service to its citizens through community-oriented policing and problem solving, the mayor, city council, and the police department have implemented the Area Commander Program. The program is geared for providing more effective and intensive police response to specific community needs as addressed by its citizens.
  - The program is also designed to enhance current community-oriented policing methods by becoming more streamlined, thus allowing line-level officers to be afforded more time and greater flexibility in concentrating on community-related problems.
- We hold these meetings 3 times a year.
- For lot of good information you can visit the City of Fontana website at [www.fontana.org](http://www.fontana.org).
- If you have not picked one up yet there are “Who ya gonna call” forms on the back table. (Here is the link: [www.fontana.org/2292/Who-Ya-Gonna-Call](http://www.fontana.org/2292/Who-Ya-Gonna-Call))
- Do not wait until the next meeting to bring up issues you might be having in your neighborhood.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Planning Commission November 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Southridge park clean up November 11<sup>th</sup> (lunch will be provided)
  - City Council meeting November 14<sup>th</sup>
- Specific issues in Area 4
  - Area 4 is normal in all ranges (Commercial burglaries, residential burglaries, and grand theft and auto thefts).
  - Vehicle burglaries have increased significantly. There has been an increase in front of 24 hour Fitness at the Palm Court Center, that is where the majority of them are occurring.

### Officer Buddy Porch-Body Worn Computers

- In 2015 Fontana Police Department received a department of justice grant for 200 body cameras with the City of San Bernardino.
- After 2 years of research and evaluation of other cameras Fontana Police Department selected to go with Visual Labs Inc.
- Visual Labs was one of 8 companies evaluated by the department.

- Visual Labs received an 84% score based on the criteria the department desired.
- They have great customer service.
- The software upgrades to tailor the ever changing needs and recommendation of our agency.
- Cost effective.
- Visual Labs designed a software to utilize on existing smartphones.
- The Smartphone which is being used is the Kyocera Duraforce Pro
  - HD Video Camera
  - HD Digital Camera
  - Digital Audio Recorder
  - Personnel Locator
  - All in one device
  - Programmable buttons
  - Water resistant
  - High drop/impact rating
  - Verizon Wireless network
  - Leased equipment (after 10 months can be upgraded)
- The camera can be worn in several positions as long as it is above the beltline of the torso, facing forward with an optimum field of view.
- The cameras only see what the officers see which is why we did not get the phones equipped with night vision because the officers cannot see at night or in a dark location and we wanted the phone to see exactly what the officers point of view is.
- There is a Heat Map Activity Capability:
  - Shows areas where body worn computers were activated.
  - Identifies areas that may need additional patrol or identifies areas of concern. (high call areas)
  - Supervisors have the ability to ensure officers are active in their assigned patrol areas.
- Other data available:
  - Tracing direction of travel
  - Speed (GPS)
  - GPS Tagging which is accurate within +/- 3 yards.
- Frequently asked questions:
  - When will an officer activate the camera?
    - Officers are encouraged to use the cameras whenever possible. They will be required to activate them during field contacts, on radio calls, and enforcement stops, and anytime they feel the camera may be useful. In addition, the cameras we chose are also utilized as digital audio recorders and still cameras which will aid in recovery of evidence and reduce the equipment which is issued to each officer.
  - Will I be able to review the data collected off the body worn computer?
    - No. The video captured with the body worn computer is considered an investigative record per Government Code Section 6254 (f). The department will comply with Public Records Act as it applies to body worn cameras, but considers all footage exempt from disclosure, except as is determined otherwise by department officials or a court of law. People often seek police assistance when they are going through a difficult time. Juveniles, victims, and arrestees have strong privacy protection rights, in part to mitigate the negative impact of open information. We are committed to protecting the safety and privacy of all individuals who interact with the police.
  - Will I be told I am being recorded?

- Officers are encouraged to tell the public when they are being recorded, however, it is not a requirement to do so.
- How does this increase accountability?
  - The presence of a body worn camera or any recording device has proven to increase professionalism from both officers and citizens and reduce some incidents of violent public interaction. Recordings also give staff the ability to conduct administrative reviews and audits of both individual recordings and the overall program, in accordance with our policy. Recording may also be reviewed by staff to improve service levels, tactics, and training for our employees.
- What if I don't want to be recorded?
  - Our policy states that officers outfitted with a camera will turn it on when an interaction with a member of the public is initiated and the camera will remain on during the interaction. There are a few exceptions to this, such as situations where there is a privacy concern that would make it inappropriate to record, requiring a shift in priority to the protection of privacy in certain environments.

---

## Questions

- **Is the Palm Court Shopping Center where the old Toy's R Us use to be?** No it is the Target Shopping Center.
- **Is there any surveillance cameras at the Palm Court shopping center?** We are currently working on that with the management company to add cameras as well as additional security officers.
- **Is it the officer's choice to turn on the body worn cameras?** Yes the officer has the option to turn the camera off or on. It does not run continuously while the office is working.
- **Does the Police Department encourage the public to record incidents?** We do not deter them from recording however the problem with the recordings from the public is that most of the time they do not catch the whole interaction, they usually get the tail end of things.
- **Will officers record inside homes?** If the officer is there to investigate a crime they probably will, however the officer has the option to either video record or audio record depending on the situation.
- **Is the Fontana Police Department going to be investing in drones soon?** There are currently no plans for us to get drones for the department.
- **When the officer activates the camera is there a buffer time, like does it go back like 30 seconds from the start of the activation?** No there is no lag time, it starts as soon as we turn them on, no sooner no later.
- **What can citizens do to make the officer's job better?** Just be involved. If you haven't started a Neighborhood Watch group, start one. If you can encourage your neighbors to attend these meetings. Report anything suspicious in your neighborhood or while you are out and about.
- **Do patrol vehicles have separate video cameras?** No, we tested those in the past however it didn't work.
- **Are officers assigned the same camera every day?** Yes, it is the same camera the officer uses. It is assigned to that officer only.
- **Are officers financially responsible for the camera?** The officer is required to maintain the camera however the officer is not financially responsible for it.
- **Do every officers have one of the body worn cameras?** Every patrol officer has been assigned a body worn camera.
- **Does the Fontana School Police have these cameras as well?** We don't know if they do or not.
- **How many officers are patrolling the area?** It varies depending on the day and the time and the calls for service.

- **Are the K9's also assigned a body worn camera?** No just the handlers.
- **We have a police station down in this area?** We have an unmanned substation, which officers use for writing reports, restroom breaks etc but the main station is downtown.
- **Are officers allowed to interact with the community, like if we see them out at lunch can we go up and talk to them?** Yes officers are encouraged to interact with the community.
- **Do officers who are assigned to the area stay in this specific area?** Yes if they are assigned to the area they are suppose to stay in that area, unless there is a major call somewhere in the city and their assistance is needed.
- **When is the crime usually higher?** During the holiday season we usually see an increase especially in auto burglaries.
- **Since the community is changing and there are so many warehouses in the area now, there are many big rigs causing major traffic issues. Country Village and the 60 freeway is a mess.** We understand there are issues with Country Village and the 60. The problem with that area is that our jurisdiction end just before that and we have reached out to Jurupa Valley for help but we get no response.
- **To continue with the truck issues, we have trucks stopping in the middle of the street.** Officer Locey advised he is the commercial officer and he covers those complaints. He will take down the information and extra patrol the area.
- **She lives in the Woodhaven homes and she has noticed that a lot of motorhomes have been showing up in the area and are parking on the street.**
- **If a person owns a business and they have their vehicle used for the business are they allowed to park in the residential area?** Yes, however if you are speaking of big rigs those are not allowed to park in residential areas unless they are conducting business such as dropping off an order or picking up. They are not allowed to be parking there even if they live there.
- **She has lived here for 31 years and she is very angry regarding all the warehouses coming to Fontana. All the smog it is creating it is awful. What is the mayor doing to help the residents down in this area?**
- **There are fireworks going off almost every night. They live on Banana and Woodland. It has been a solid year of someone lighting fireworks every night.** Illegal fireworks are a big problem in the city. If the officer sees the person lighting them off then they can issue a citation but it is very difficult to catch them in the act. If you know the address of where the fireworks are being ignited from that would help our officers.
- **Brown Strauss on Banana and Jurupa had an agreement that they were not suppose to start work until 6am but they are not sticking to that agreement. They are working all night long right now.**
- **On Beech there are vehicles doing donuts late at night.** If you know the specific time and days we can request extra patrol in the area.
- **There is typically 2 to 4 units in the area, however they are concerned because they don't see officers patrolling anymore.**
- **His neighbor moved out and is now renting her house to unsavory characters. What rights do they have as neighbors? One day officers raided the house and they constantly have parties every day and every night.** Please if something is occurring like that contact the area commander but if they are disturbing your peace please keeping calling dispatch to have an officer go out there. As an Area Commander he can reach out to the owner to try to resolve the issues.
- **On Jurupa between Mulberry and Chaparral the bushes need to be trimmed it is so hard to see when you are pulling out to make a turn.** Public Works will look into it.
- **There have been a lot of accidents on Live Oak and Jurupa. People do not expect to see a stop sign after all the stop lights.** Jeff Kim with Engineering advised we understand the concern at that location. We are expecting construction of the lights within the next 2 years at that intersection.

- **Do we still have a landscaping crew? Because Banana looks horrible.** Sergio Quiroz with Public Works advised yes we still have a landscaping crew for the area. There were some storm drain issues in that area which is why it all died, but we are currently working on getting it re-landscaped.
- **Where are kids getting drugs?** Various location, from friends or acquaintances usually.
- **Does Fontana have any medical marijuana stores in the city?** No.
- **How are the gangs in the area?** We haven't had any big flare ups of gangs in our area. Our Gang Unit has a good handle on them.
- **This question is to Councilmember Jesse Sandoval, you are running for Mayor, why should we vote for you?** We need to be more open to listening to the community especially in dealing with issues such as the warehouses.

---

### Next Meeting

---

January 25, 2018 @ 6:30 pm, Southridge Middle School