

ACONA Meeting Notes

September 22, 2020

After introductions, the following topics were presented.

Bobcat Fire Update

Battalion Chief Wes Anzai, Community Services Liaison Maria Grycan
Bobcat Fire started 9/6 above Azusa; to date: 112,000 acres burned, 17% contained; 1556 people assigned; north of New York Drive/Woodbury are under evacuation warning. Q: Why is Altadena under a warning? A: There's a potential that the fire will move this way. Just want people to be prepared in case the fire approaches. The fire is at Mount Wilson, which is close enough to Altadena that we need to be prepared. There has been good progress in the Mount Wilson area, but the fire isn't contained there yet. Q: What is the "firing" operation? A: Using fire to fight fire (i.e., backfire).

Altadena Town Council Update

Chairman Billy Malone

(See the Resources tab on the ACONA website for links to all of the following resources.)

Town Council has many contacts and can find or get you to answers to many of your questions, so call your Town Council representative if you have questions.

Illegal dumping: Athens and DPW have identified spots in Altadena with chronic illegal dumping (see slide).

Barking dogs/roosters crowing: Pasadena Humane Society patrols Altadena; contract runs for another 18 months. Call them or go to their website to report an issue.

Excessive dog waste: Contact the LA County Public Health Department.

Anonymous reports are accepted, but you can also leave your contact info if you want a response.

Recycling centers: Closest facility is in Glendale. There are new Covid safety rules.

To contact ATC members, emails are in the following format:

firstname.lastname@altadenatowncouncil.org.

Altadena Sheriff's Station Update

Captain Marjory Jacobs

Parking enforcement guidelines in the Covid era: March 16 – DMV asked law enforcement to use discretion in enforcing expired licenses/registrations/street sweeping violations. Vehicles blocking roadway, fire hydrants and similar safety concerns are still being cited. Abandoned vehicles: tagging vehicles but not towing immediately; will tow if they can't find the owner.

Saving the station: The community's support helped to keep the station open. Not out of the woods yet, because of Measure J scheduled for the November ballot seeking to move financial support away from law enforcement. Altadena and 4

other stations covering unincorporated county areas could be on the chopping block if it passes.

Civilian Oversight: Four types: Investigative, Auditing, Monitoring, Review (see slide). Need strong core of concerned citizens, clear goals, a budget, community support. Altadena Community Advisory Committee has been in existence for decades and meets monthly to address community concerns. Altadena Volunteer Program is robust, with many different groups. Always room for more volunteers; 12-week civilian academy educates volunteers on the Sheriff's Department.

Q: Why is the Altadena Sheriff's Facebook page only being updated by the Sheriff and not by the Station? A: Deputy Dan resigned, so he can't post there anymore. Trying to find a new PIO. Instagram and Nixel are updated more frequently. Deputy Dan used to do the crime blotters; they now go to the Altadena Town Council and they will be going on the social media platforms as well.

Q: What all is covered by "safety" besides patrolling the neighborhood? A: Sheriff has been clear that if Measure J passes unincorporated county areas would not be covered by the Sheriff's Department. Crescenta Valley or Temple Station might be responsible for patrolling Altadena in that case. Any funds to cover patrolling unincorporated county areas would come out of the county's general fund (estimated at 10% of the Sheriff's budget).

Q&A

Q: Do they take batteries at hazardous waste disposal? A: I believe they do. Pasadena libraries (Central and Hastings) may take them (though they are closed now due to Covid).

Q: How will voting occur for Altadena Town Council? A: Two polling places: Altadena main library and the Bob Lucas branch. Voting days are Tuesday, November 3 and the following Saturday, November 7.

Info: Do check info on specific items for SAFE sites; they don't take smoke detectors, for example. Home Depot takes only rechargeable batteries. The link in Resources is to a page explaining what is acceptable.

Q: What can we do to influence Supervisors regarding Altadena Station closure? A: Can't really comment; but Capt. Jacobs is negotiating for an additional officer for the station. Deputies are on a 12 on/12 off schedule because of the fire.

Announcement: Library Foundation's Taste of 'Dena is about to go live: <https://www.altadenalibraryfoundation.org/tasteofdena.html>

Additional questions can be sent to Elliot (emichaelgold@earthlink.net).