

Fort Jones Police Department Monthly Report

February 2022

Happy February everyone! As we already began to see the winter months melt away I realized it's been over two years since the partnership was created between Etna and Fort Jones in bringing law enforcement services to our towns. Officer Buell just enjoyed his two year anniversary as a Fort Jones Police Officer and Covid seems to be coming to an end. So much has happened in these two short years it's hard to fathom what we have all endured. While there have been struggles I can't imagine going through them anywhere else and without that partnership. We are lucky to have such a great department and look forward to the progress we make in the upcoming years. Thank you to everyone who has helped and been willing to contribute in making it a success.

Traffic- The department continues to show presence throughout the day and night in the attempt to remind drivers to obey traffic laws especially in critical areas like our schools and neighborhoods. After a spike in traffic related issues we have seen a decline in moving violations and collisions over the past month. With this decrease we still remain diligent in the enforcement of non-moving violations such as driving without a license or driving while suspended. Numerous verbal and written warnings were issued in the attempt to remind drivers of their duties while several written citations were issued to those whose violations continued or warranted such accountability.

Schools- The School district will be easing covid related mandates as of March 12th which will hopefully pave the way to normalcy. We at the department and Etna PAL are excited to get back within the schools and start implementing our proactive approach to help prevent future problems before they begin. We have been recently working with the school district in forming additional programs to be available to the valley's youth very soon and hopefully began programs that will become a staple to our community's needs.

Animal Control- In the past two months we have been concentrating on several reoccurring issues related to animal control. While these issues are being resolved it is a process and takes time. The decline of reoccurring issues over the past two years has shown the process does work as long as we stay diligent and focused. We are also excited to see new ordinances and procedures taking place to assist in the educations and enforcement of such laws.

Reports/Cases- Each town has already accumulated over twenty written cases for the year. This is an increase in activity but has come to be expected as covid mandates become less restrictive. Many of our cases have been drug and alcohol related which unfortunately has become the norm. Again one of the benefits of merging law enforcement services to each town is the relation we have in common with those we serve. Most of our cases result in issues to each town and therefore the fix is also common. This has proven to be a very positive aspect of our investigations and enforcement allowing us to solve and find closure to many cases that would have normally not been solved. As mentioned above several traffic citations were issued last month and are separate from the written cases that are forwarded to the District Attorney for prosecution.

Calls for Service/Mutual Aid- As always calls for service continue to be at a high volume but with a steady increase in positive interactions. Calls for service comprise most of our time and usually don't result in a written case or citation. However these calls are the most vital aspect of our duties as these are the everyday contacts we have with most of our constituents. It is also the time we enjoy the most as the interactions we have are very positive and help us feel as part of the community and we are making a positive impact.

Ordinance Enforcement- As we are all aware the continued fight with code enforcement violations is a long and strenuous one. Kelly has continued to follow up on older cases making sure they don't become issues again while also issuing letters to homeowners advising them of potential issues. We have had some very positive progress in several new cases by having a quick response before it manifests into a larger problem. Again the implementation of new ordinances has proven to be a great help in bringing closure to new complaints.

PAL- The Pal Program has successfully completed another basketball season with attendance being very high. We also have seen progress in our mentoring program bringing new programs to our schools and youth that hasn't been available before. We were also very fortunate enough to recently have land donated to our nonprofit which we are now pursuing the development and construction of a skate/bike park. This area will provide new and exciting outdoor activities to our community's families. The Etna Pal Clay Birds will be starting soon as well followed by swim team.

Patrol Hours- In the month of February the Town of Fort Jones continued to receive the equivalent of more than 650 hours of police services. Many of these hours are comprised of proactive efforts to ensure crimes are reduced or eliminated in many capacities. Again that consistent presence of law enforcement has shown to be very productive in the reduction of criminal activity with the increase of positive law enforcement interaction and service to our community. Thank you for being our eyes and ears out there and we look forward to hearing from you in the future. Another exciting factor within our progress of criminal activity is the prosecution that has taken place. Sometimes the wheels of Justice move slow but in the end after a lot of patience we have seen those responsible for committing violations against our community held accountable. As a reminder if anyone would like to come out on a ride along with an officer please let me know so we can arrange a time. I believe there is no better way to learn about your community, the issues we face, and come to a better understanding of how our town works.