

Fort Jones Police Department Monthly Report

July 2020

The month of July was another busy one but one with numerous positive events. As we continue to address ongoing issues we have been proactive in preventing others from beginning. Officer Buell passed his field training and is now working alongside other officers in the town of Fort Jones. Officer Buell has already been very productive and shown he will be a great asset to our community. He was able to purchase a home in Ft. Jones and will be a part of the community both as an officer and a resident. Officer Whitchurch has also been very successful and productive in finding solutions to issues the town has faced, some for many years. It is a true blessing we have such quality officers in our community that give back to our community in numerous ways and many not on their timesheet. Thanks again to our constituents and council in being a partner as we continue to make the town a beautiful place to live and work.

Traffic- Traffic issues are always on our radar (pun intended) and we continue patrol looking for violations. Education is still a big part of gaining compliance from drivers but enforcement resulting in citations is unfortunately the only recourse we may have sometimes. Several citations were issued this past month resulting from numerous traffic stops. From our side of things, it seems traffic issues have begun to resolve themselves, however enforcement will continue in the attempt to make the town the safest it can be. The speed sign continues to be in several locations around town to help remind drivers of their speeds. Although we continue to patrol the information we gain from the public is very helpful in determining problem areas. Please encourage others to call if they see anything or have concerns.

Schools- We continue to work with our schools' administration and help in any way we can to help with the upcoming school year. As of now the 26th of August is the start date to the new year. It appears most children will be returning to school with precautions in place due to Covid. We will be assisting our schools in making sure this return to school is as safe as it can be.

Animal Control- Animal control continues to be very busy with several problem animals being addressed. Several dogs within and out of town have caused damage to livestock and been at large on a regular basis. The owners were located and citations were issued. We hope this issue will be solved at this point but if not officers are ready to take the next step. Other than a couple isolated incidents it seems animals at large have been reduced over time. We will continue to be diligent in this area and again this is an area where information from the public helps us in finding problems and solutions.

Reports/Cases- Several Cases and arrests have been made in the past month in response to the town's needs. We currently have pulled over 60 written cases involving arrests and or investigations. Numerous search warrants were also served resulting in the recovery of stolen items and illegal narcotics. Arrests also resulted from these search warrants and had relations to several very large marijuana grows outside of town. Our Officers continue to take a hands-on diligent approach to the issues the town is facing resulting in many historical ongoing problems being rectified. Thank you to our officers for putting in the many long hours it takes to solve these issues that have plagued our community for some time. We also benefited from our partnership with NSMIT and having our own detective. Many, many hours go into these search warrants and cases but as we see the results, we see the benefits of having such skilled officers on the department.

Calls for Service- Our calls for service continue to be at a high volume during these times however we have seen a swing towards positive calls. As time passes we hope to turn most of our calls for service into positive ones. Again this swing towards the positive shows us that our approach is working and provides positive feedback to our officers on the front lines. These calls for service also include our assistance with medical, fire, and allied agencies. It has been great to have a partnership with these agencies and departments.

Ordinance Enforcement- Code enforcement is on the forefront of our daily activities and will continue to be as we attempt to gain voluntary compliance from our constituents. Several problem areas have been fixed and others have seen progress in the recent days. It is nice to see continued improvement and results verifying the hard work going into code enforcement is working.

PAL- The Police Activities League is continuing with our programs as much as Covid restrictions will allow. We continue our fishing club that has been very successful with many members also utilizing our youth center facilities. We hope to offer soccer and flag football shortly as we regularly do during the beginning part of the school year. As we continue to monitor the safest ways to offer programs for our youth we continue to look for more unconventional ways to reach our children. Our partnership with our schools will be very important as we open more programs. We will do as much as we can as long as it remains safe for our children and community.

Training- While we continue training related to law enforcement we have been fortunate to also obtain training from our ambulance and fire services. This cross training is very useful in small areas as we all wear many hats. Being cross trained helps us all be more proficient which makes our community safer and help us provide a better service to our community.

CSO- Kelly has been staying busy within many aspects of community service and code enforcement. Her efforts have been paying off and several ongoing problems becoming resolved. Kelly has also prepared a written report for last month which you can review. Please continue to bring any issue to the department see we can review and begin to look at solutions.

Patrol Hours- In the month of July the Town of Fort Jones again received the equivalent to more than 550 hours of police services. These services come in many forms besides the regular patrol hours from officers. We have our investigator detective, reserves, and CSO's putting in hours to make sure the town receives the services it deserves. We continue to benefit from our partnership with our federal allies and task force teams. Most of you probably heard about the large law enforcement presence last week as this was a result of several search warrants being served after countless hours of information gathering and investigations being performed by our staff. This has also given us the ability to bring more specialized hands on deck without an additional cost to the town. As a result of this hard work numerous large marijuanas grows were taken down throughout the valley.