

Fort Jones Police Department Monthly Report

August 2020

The month of August continued to be a very busy month for the police department. With several progressions within the tasks we have made priority to meet the needs of town. With all officers now off training and having the ability to regulate and maintain consistent schedules it creates a system allowing us to follow a more strategic process and approach to ongoing issues. As you will see below we have had the opportunity along with normal activities to provide mutual aid to jurisdictions facing natural disasters.

Traffic- Traffic issues continue to be addressed and we have seen many problematic areas have a reduction of complaints and vehicle stops. The officer's presence has shown to be an effective tool when it comes to crime and traffic violation reduction. With School beginning we have heightened our presence and education in and around all school properties in the effort to provide a safe route to school for everyone. We will continue to address problematic areas and hope to see the continued fall in violations.

Schools- With a week delay the Scott Valley Schools opened with great success. Providing Covid protocols the schools were successfully able to hold school in session. Our partnership with the schools proved to be strong as we were able to assist in helping students and parents transition into this new way of normal. I was very impressed with our constituent's ability to cooperate and adapt to these new protocols. So a very successful start of the school year has begun and we look forward to continued success.

Animal Control- While animal control calls for service have been down, we have had several calls for isolated dogs at large. These owners have been cited multiple times and as we continue to resolve the matter. I spoke with Scott regarding the installation of kennels hopefully sometime in the near future. Currently all incarcerated dogs have to be transported and kenneled in Etna. By having kennels local to Fort Jones we will be able to expedite the process of impounding and also provide the kennel fees directly to the Town of Fort Jones.

Reports/Cases- As a repeat from last month several new cases and arrests have been made in the past month in response to the town's needs. We currently have pulled over 70 written cases involving arrests and or investigations. We continued with numerous search warrants being 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. It is important to remember 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 continue to benefit from our partnership with NSMIT and having our own detective. 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/Mutual Aid- The month of August continued to see our calls for service 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. As mentioned above we have sent officers to other jurisdictions to aid in their response to wildfires. The officers assist in evacuations, patrol, and crime prevention during these shifts. Currently two officers are assisting with the fires in and around Happy Camp. It's important to remember while we provide assistance to other areas in emergencies, we always make sure our local area is priority and coverage is provided 24/7.

Ordinance Enforcement- As Code Enforcement continues Kelly has made great progress with many properties. Several new issues have arisen and we are currently addressing those concerns. Kelly asked if she could attend this month's council meeting and should be available for questions. We will continue our identification and solutions to ongoing issues and are happy to see the progress that has been made.

PAL- The Police Activities League is continuing its efforts in providing much needed programs especially during these pandemic times. We are currently looking at providing soccer and flag football to youth while adhering to Covid restrictions and regulations. Hopefully we can bring some normalcy to our valley as everyone adjusts to the new way of life.

Training- While we still provide hands on perishable skills training, we have been able to provide additional training via remote access. It is different but having the ability to provide much needed training as been appreciated.

CSO- As mentioned above Kelly has made a lot of progress recently and will be available for questions and clarification of related code enforcement issues. Several cases have made it to the final step of filing charges with the district attorney. We hope to have a response soon and have the prosecution step take place.

Patrol Hours- In the month of August the Town of Fort Jones again received the equivalent to more than 600 hours of police services. These serve 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 as well. During these hours of patrol officers provide many proactive approaches in preventing crime including numerous security checks of local business' and schools. This ongoing presents in my opinion prevents crime and allows us to see the progress we have made in a very short time.