



UNITY in commUNITY - Chillin' N Grillin' BBQ CompITition

Saturday, September 18, 2021 - 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Jesse Turner – Fontana Park's Sports Pavilion

15556 Summit Avenue, Fontana, CA

ABOUT the EVENT

The event is all called “***UNITY in CommUNITY***” specifically because it helps build UNITY in the greater Fontana commUNITY of the Inland Empire.

It is a partnership with the Concerned Citizens for the Development of North Fontana - a local civil rights organization founded in the 1960s, the Fontana Police Officers Association, the City of Fontana including the mayor and all members of Fontana City Council, and the Fontana Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose is to develop and maintain trust and communication with the community and police, which helps remove barriers and misunderstanding. We come together to support keeping us all safe from crime and the fear of crime. We build trust and personal relationships through events like this.

It is as simple and as *Biblical* as “breaking bread” together. The *Harvard Business Review* reported that preparing and sharing a casual meal helps build comradery. We see the Barbecue CompITition as doing just that - building comradery. For us that means trust, communication and collaboration.

Public safety is a partnership between peace officers, fire fighters, paramedics and the community they serve. Community safety is improved when people better understand how and why first responders do what they do. In order to explain that dynamic, first we have to trust each other and then communication flows.

The outcome of Barbecue builds on the positive relationships we already have. It helps make Fontana a better and more prosperous place to live, work, play and invest. Evidence that it helps keep Fontana safe: there was no rioting and damage in Fontana during the 2020 summer of violence, as there was in surrounding cities.

The event will be Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Jesse Turner – Fontana Park's Sports Pavilion located at 15556 Summit Avenue in Fontana. Competitors come from police and fire employee associations. They vie for bragging rights and trophies.

There will be booths, vendors, games and activities for kids, first responder emergency vehicles including a SWAT truck, historic police and fire vehicles, current police and fire vehicles, public safety demonstrations and live entertainment including Summit High School Band and the Drumline from Locke High School in Los Angeles. Astronaut Victor Glover, who comes from the Inland Empire, has been invited as the honored guest.

The Fontana Rotary Club, Fontana Kiwanis Club, Fontana Women's Club and Fontana Exchange Club as well as numerous local businesses are all supporters of this community event.

For additional information call Ted Hunt at 321-482-3949 or Ellen Turner at 909-333-9950.

