



Hollywood Area C-PAB Virtual Zoom Meeting September 10, 2020

Captain Steven Lurie

Commanding Officer, Hollywood Community Station
CPAB Co-Chair

Ferris Wehbe

CPAB Co-Chair

I. Hollywood LAPD Crime Update

In the past 60 days there has been an increase in several crime categories. Most notably, there has been more than a doubling of grand theft auto incidents. In a number of these auto thefts, people are leaving their key fob in the car when they quickly run in to pick-up / deliver or leave the fob in the car when it's parked in their own driveway.

II. Fire Danger

Because of weather conditions, we are in a very high fire danger situation. The Captain has met with LAFD. Please be conscious on how you park in the hillside areas to make sure that emergency vehicles can pass if necessary. If you have questions for LAFD Chief Hogan send them to Ferris and they will be passed along.

III. Advance Questions & Answers

Q: Has there been an increase of assaults on restaurant staff at restaurants that have outdoor dining?

A: This question came too late for the Captain to research for this meeting. He hasn't heard of anything like that but will look into it.

Q: Seeing more reports (Citizen App and in the news) of individuals with guns around the area. What can you share about that?

A: There has been an increase in gun arrests in Hollywood. Almost always they are a result of traffic stops where a gun is discovered inside a vehicle or on a person. Generally these are individuals who are known gang members.

Q: If the Captain could call the shots, what changes would he want to see happen in the Department?

A: Making aggressive and drastic changes to the Police Department would be a mistake, however he does think there are important opportunities to look at changing. For example, in Hollywood, LAPD is currently the primary service provider responding to calls about the mentally ill and the homeless. There should be other service providers who are better suited to answer those calls. It's important to fully develop those solutions before eliminating the LAPD from handling them.

Q: What can city leaders and citizens do to improve morale for officers.

A: There are lots of examples of expressions of thanks in Hollywood. The Captain feels that the Hollywood Community has done a lot to let LAPD know they are appreciated. If you see an officer, simply thank them. It means a lot.

Q: Mail & Package thefts. It seems that there has been a noticeable uptick in mail and package theft since COVID-19 has meant more people are ordering things online for home delivery. Is this true in Hollywood? The U.S. Post Office doesn't seem very responsive when these incidents are reported to them.

A: Yes! There has been a significant increase in this type of theft. And, yes, it's partially due to COVID-19. The advice to combat this:

- Bring those packages in as soon as they are delivered
- Consider a "Ring" type doorbell that will notify you when deliveries occur
- Also good lighting is also helpful

Theft of U.S. Mail is a Federal crime, and he has had a positive experience working with Postal Inspectors to investigate those crimes.

Q: Can you speak about what the laws are related to people leaving children or pets in cars during hot weather? If people see it what action should they take? What if it takes too long for LAPD to respond? Are concerned citizens allowed to break a window to save a child or pet that may be in distress?

A: It is an emergency if you see a child or pet in a car on a hot day. The temperature inside the car will be considerably hotter than outside. Call 9-1-1. Should you break-in if the LAPD or LAFD don't arrive fast enough? He can't tell you not to, especially if there's a child in distress.

Q: People are really upset at how the homeless encampments continue to grow along with the filth, graffiti and garbage around them. There is a perception by the community that the lack of enforcement of the law has resulted in a sense of immunity by the occupants of encampments and that "anything goes."

CDC recommendations don't seem like a very strong argument to defend what's going on. Not a lot of social distancing or mask wearing in the encampments.

A: In Hollywood they have been very active around encampments, however there are homeless rights groups that object to cleanups. They are out there doing what they can. This is a legislative issue – LAPD can only enforce what rules they are given.

Q: How often are LAPD helicopters dispatched to Hollywood and how do these figures compare to other divisions?

A: There are two helicopters in the air for the entire city, 20 hours a day. Hollywood never has a dedicated airship, but he estimates anecdotally there is an airship response to Hollywood about 5 -10 times a week. The helicopters go to the highest priority calls.

Q: What is the average on-scene "loitering" time?

A: They stay until the situation resolves itself or they are called away to a bigger priority call. Typically it's minutes, but if they are there for searching for a suspect-at-large it could be much longer (30 – 50 minutes).

Q: What is the marginal cost of deploying a helicopter to the scene?

A: Each airship costs \$563 per hour (aircraft and fuel cost) to operate. There are two LAPD airships, and they operate 365 days a year, 20 hours a day. Daily Cost = \$22,520. Annual Cost = \$8,219,800.

While it is expensive, the Captain has witnessed many, many examples of the LAPD airships saving lives.

Q: What policies set the minimum altitude that LAPD helicopters can fly?

A: There aren't specifics for police helicopters; it's up to the pilot's discretion. He recognizes how loud they are.

Q: What are the engine failure protocols for helicopters?

A: The reason LAPD helicopters circle rather than hover in place, is that if there is some forward motion and the engine fails, there is a chance to do what is called "auto rotating" and make an attempt to land safely. News helicopters tend to hover, even though it's more dangerous because they want to get that perfect steady shot for the news.

Q: Do officers generally support and understand the Black Lives Matter Movement? Or do they view the movement with distrust?

A: The Captain can't speak for all the officers, but he can say that they are trained to value all lives.

Q: What kind of training do LAPD officers get on implicit bias?

A: For more than six years they have been doing extensive implicit bias training. One of Captain Lurie's biggest frustrations during the past 120 days is that many of the reforms being called for in the protests are things LAPD has been already doing for years.

Q: What kind of training is LAPD doing around de-escalation vs. armed response?

A: It is LAPD policy for officers to take de-escalation steps. Since those de-escalation protocols have been in place they have seen a significant decline in officer-involved shootings. The Captain predicts that other law enforcement agencies around the country will be looking to LAPD for ideas on implement training for their organizations.

Q: Any lessons for LAPD from the recent LA Sheriff shooting of Dijon Kizzee?

A: There are always important lessons that come from any officer-involved shooting.

Q: Does the LA County Sheriff do the same de-escalation training as LAPD with regard to deadly force?

A: Not sure what their training is.

V. Updates from Government Officials

Rachel Fox

Field Deputy, LA City Council Member David Ryu's Office (CD4)

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- Speed Humps Program applications open September 16 at 8:00 am.
- Relaxed parking restrictions have been extended through October 1, 2020.
- There is a new APP that has been developed by the folks at Citizen that will assist with contact tracing for exposure to COVID-19. Website: <https://citizen.com/safepass>

Ethan Weaver

Hollywood Division Neighborhood Prosecutor, LA City Attorney's Office

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Party House Update.

This had been a massive problem pre-pandemic. As the Captain predicted, the party house problem has increased after the bars and clubs were closed due to COVID-19. Ethan recognized the Captain for anticipating this and allocating resources to address the issues. There are multiple party cars working the weekends, as well as a dedicated patrol during the week.

Party houses in Hollywood have previously been a problem for neighborhoods in the hills. They are now seeing this problem in other parts of Hollywood. Ethan encouraged everyone to keep him in the loop if you are having issues with a party house location. They have a list of about 60 – 70 locations that have been cited previously or they have received complaints about.

The Mayor also strengthened enforcement with an emergency order preventing gatherings during the pandemic. It is within the Mayor's office discretion to shut off the utilities at a chronic locations that are cited.

Sean Starkey

Field Deputy, LA City Council Member Mitch O'Farrell's Office (CD13)

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Hollywood Boulevard

They have seen an increase in activity, with food trucks and as well as an increase in criminal activity along the boulevard in recent weeks – as though there is no pandemic. The City will be implementing new parking restrictions along Hollywood Boulevard at night. This shouldn't be a problem for businesses because there are numerous parking structures that are currently under-utilized.

Captain Lurie indicated that LAPD will be patrolling and enforcing COVID-19 compliance (food trucks) and traffic. He wants to prevent the problems on the boulevard from gathering momentum.

VI. Questions from Meeting Attendees

Q: Does the Hollywood LAPD use the tactic of "spit hoodies?" If so, can you elaborate on how to avoid the unfortunate outcome such as what happened recently in Rochester NY?

A: For those not familiar, there was an incident in Rochester NY that gained national media attention. Police encountered a man nude in the street, suffering from a mental illness episode and were recorded using a "Spit Sock."

A Spit Sock is made of lightweight (breathable) material that is designed to protect police (and firefighters) from spit (and other bodily fluids) when handling a suspect. LAPD does use them, they try not to but they have them when they are necessary.

Q: Are ankle bracelets monitored? There was a person living in a homeless encampment wearing one. How does this work?

A: LAPD itself does not issue them or actively monitor them. They are monitored with spot audits, or if someone fails to show up for a probation appointment.

Q: With Hollywood bars and nightclubs closed has there been a reduced deployment of officers for late night duties in Hollywood?

A: No. Deployment has remained the same, if anything it has been increased to address the need to do robust party house enforcement and Hollywood Boulevard enforcement.

Q: What about all the people on Hollywood Boulevard without masks?

A: While the City of West Hollywood is issuing costly tickets to people who aren't wearing masks, the philosophy and practice of Hollywood LAPD (like all divisions) is to educate and provide masks (they have thousands of "We Love LA" masks to give out).

Q: Is a "Spit Hoodie" necessary if the officers are wearing their own facemasks?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a formal policy to reach out to the peaceful demonstration groups and alert them that they are in danger of being infiltrated by agitators and help them prevent this?

A: While there isn't a formal policy, the Captain does meet and confer with organizers regularly. They have no interest in having their demonstrations shut down.

The complication of the most recent protests is that because these protests are specifically about the police, it is challenging to be visible at all with the leadership of these protest groups. Police visibly consulting with protest leaders can escalate the situation.

Comment: from St. Barnabas – thank you for LAPD helping to deliver food to housebound seniors.

Q: There are cars left on streets (abandoned) and the moratorium on ticketing and towing because of COVID-19 is attracting vandalism and crime. What can be done?

A: If the vehicle is stolen / dumped, they can impound them. Report it.

Q: Has there been any discussion of creating an LAPD peacekeeping group that doesn't look so militaristic and provocative to help with protests?

A: The Captain doesn't know of any specific plan, but encouraged the community to participate in the Police Commission forums that are being held to give feedback and suggestions.

Q: Some areas seem to be favored spots for criminals to unload cars. Recently we reported a suspicious vehicle (no plates, flat tire) to our SLO Mata and she ran the Vin# and discovered it was not registered – and never had been. Thankfully, Officer Mata was able to impound it. How can residents prevent our streets from attracting this type of thing?

A: If they are stolen, or not in the system they will take them. The answer is, communicate with your SLO.

Q: Please address the requirement of wearing facemasks by LAPD Officers.

A: It is LAPD policy that officers must wear facemasks when out in public unless the tactical situation dictates otherwise.

Next Meeting:
THURSDAY October 15, 2020
2:00 pm