Captain Stephen M. Carmona’s Captain’s Corner

Greetings from your Area Commanding Officer. It seems like the year 2016 has moved very quickly and now September is in the rear view mirror. I would like to get everyone up to date on what’s going on in the communities we serve.

I am very happy to say that currently, our station is showing a three percent YTD reduction in violent crime. As you know, violent crime is always our main focus, so it brings me great pleasure when I can say that the hard work put forth by the men and women who serve is paying off. Of the 21 Area police stations in our City, our station is number two in Violent Crime reduction.

We have implemented several strategies to reduce violent crime while at the same time, working hard to keep property crime down. As you may already know, the majority of the crime in our boundaries is property crime, in fact just about 87 percent of our Part I crime is property crime, with the majority of that crime being auto related. If I can again remind everyone, please Lock your cars, Hide your valuables in the trunk, and never leave you keys in your car. This is especially true for those you living in apartments with tandem parking stalls. While it is sometimes convenient for roommates who share a car, or share parking stalls, to leave a key in a vehicle, crooks are wise to this and we continue to lose vehicles every month because the keys were left inside. This can be prevented.

You may have heard about the homicide on September 24, on Sherman Way in North Hollywood, where two female suspects entered A&D liquor store and shot and killed the clerk during the commission of an armed robbery. I want to let you know that we now have both suspects in custody. They will be filed on for murder with special circumstances. This was a senseless killing and our hearts go out to the victim’s family.

On some lighter news, our very own Josh Rubenstein has been hired by Chief Beck as the new Commanding Officer of the Public Communication Group. Josh will hold a civilian rank equivalent to that of a sworn commander. As you are probably aware, Josh has been extremely active in our community for many years. He has served as our Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) Co-Chair, where I was proud to have him as my partner. In addition, he has served on our Police Auxiliary Executive Board and has been a member of the Van Nuys CPAB. Furthermore, Josh has been a staunch supporter of our efforts to expand community based policing at the Area, Bureau and City level. Please join me in congratulating Josh on his very significant achievement. He has the community’s best interest at heart and I know that he will serve with distinction.

Finally, a heartfelt word of thanks. Recently one of our 16-year old cadets suddenly lost her father, leaving behind only the cadet and her mother. The family did not have the means to pay for a funeral service or the burial. A request for assistance went out to our officers, detectives, civilians, and community members, including our CPAB, and PALS board members. Together they pitched in to donate money and food for the family. I can tell
you first hand, that this family was very much in serious financial need.

Here’s the good news, when PALS Board Member Anita Wallace, heard about this family hardship, she quickly made the Forrest Lawn fellowship program aware and they stepped in to cover all expenses. This was an unbelievable gesture by the people at Forrest Lawn and it will not be forgotten. Thank you Forrest Lawn and thank you Anita.

A sincere thank you goes out to all of the men and women who assisted and helped out, with a special acknowledgement to Senior Lead Officer Gabe Ahedo and our Youth Services Officers for personally assisting the family through this very difficult time.

Current Crime Trends
During this period which covered from August 7, 2016 to September 3, 2016, there was an increase in Robberies, Aggravated Assaults and Grand Theft Auto (GTA). The most significant increase was GTA. Last period there were nine (9) GTAs compared to 19 this crime period. We also had an uptick in Aggravated Assaults with 11 this period compared to seven (7) last period.

Five (5) of the 11 stolen vehicles occurred in the area bordered by Cohassett Street on the north, Sherman Way on the south, Laurel Canyon on the west and Lankershim Boulevard on the east. Older model Toyotas and Camrys seem to be the car of choice for the crooks.

STAY INFORMED!
Get important information via social media about crime in your neighborhood.

Nixle- [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)
Follow the link, click on residents, click “sign up” and complete the process. You will receive alerts on your cell phone whenever the corresponding law enforcement agency sends out a message. Twitter- follow us on twitter [@LAPDNorthHwdDiv](https://twitter.com/LAPDNorthHwdDiv)

Crimestoppers- [www.lacrimestoppers.org](http://www.lacrimestoppers.org)
You can report crime anonymously using this website.

Community Events

**Neighborhood Watch Meeting**
Church of San Pablo
7400 Tujunga Avenue
Monday, October 10, 2016
7:00 p.m.

**Neighborhood Watch Meeting**
Pentecostal Church Juan 3:16
6903 Radford Avenue
Wednesday, October 19, 2016
7:00 p.m.

**North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council Meeting**
L.A.F.D. Station 89
7063 Laurel Canyon Boulevard
Thursday, October 20, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Current Crime Trends

Unfortunately, A21 experienced its first Homicide on September 24th. A Robbery-related incident at a liquor store on Sherman Way and Bellaire Avenue resulted in the homicide. The Department Operations-Valley Bureau (OVB) Homicide unit is investigating and conducting the Follow-Up of the suspect(s).

Overall, crime numbers in the last crime period showed a slight decrease Year-to-Date; however, Grand Theft Auto (GTA) continues to be a driving force for crime occurrences. Burglary Theft From Vehicles (BTFV) also continues to be a concern for the crime number increase compared to last year.

Enforcement focus by North Hollywood Area personnel is the targeting of specific properties, which generate a higher than average Calls for Service, Arrests and/or complaints from the community regarding general and public nuisance. The Four (4) properties are the 12700 Block of Welby Way (which has been deemed a residence which is a gang member hang-out), 8008 Bellaire Avenue (a narcotics squatter single family residence undergoing Court Ordered Eviction), 13131 Barbara Ann Street (63 Unit apartment building), and 12616 Solvang Street (Half-Way House). Building cases against property owners, requires identifying the crime sources, enforcement and a teamwork of City entities to either significantly decrease crime incidents and complaints by the community, and/or consideration for possible Abatement proceedings.

Additionally, Ethel Avenue and Sherman Way, has generated business owners and community members complaints of the Homeless encampments, broken down vehicles, and overall trash and blight. Partnering with the City Council Office, the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council, and Transient Officers has recently begun for the short-term and long-term solution(s).

Community Events

**Kmart Safety Fair**
Kmart Retail Store
13007 Sherman Way
Saturday & Sunday – Weekend of October 1st and 2nd
10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

**North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council Meeting**
Wat Thai Temple
8225 Coldwater Canyon
Wednesday, October 26, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Current Crime Trends

The overall Area crime numbers for Year-to-Date compared to last year are lower; however, Grand Theft Auto (GTA) has been a recent increase. In a response to the recent spike of stolen vehicles, the
North Hollywood Area CPAB members and officers conducted an Outreach and Crime Prevention event at the Target Store at Vineland Avenue and Victory Boulevard on Sunday, September 18th. More than 125 shoppers visited the Area Command Post and received Crime Prevention information. Eight (8) Anti-Vehicle Device “clubs” were also given away to patrons and/or residents who were driving older model Honda and Toyota vehicles.

Enjoy the official start of the Fall and think safety first!!

Current Crime Trends
There have been several Thefts, Grand Thefts and Burglaries on Laurel Canyon between Oxnard/Victory Boulevard. Copper piping has been taken in most of the Commercial Thefts. The abandoned properties at Valley Plaza and a build-up of homeless at Alexander Park have been factors in the increase in crime numbers. Recently we had a homeless encampment at this park. Several requests were put in for Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct a cleanup, which they did. We have been working with management of Valley Plaza to help secure the buildings and provide needed security. Both of these factors have assisted in bringing the crime incidents down.

Thefts along the 12000 Block of Emelita Street have also spiked. There have been a couple of car break-ins, vandalism, and a theft. If you have a video of suspicious people in your neighborhood please contact me so we can get a flyer circulating of possible suspects.

Community Events:
Greater Valley Glenn Neighborhood Council. 
L.A. Valley College Monday, October 3, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Basic Car 15A39
Senior Lead Officer John Catalano
Cell Phone (818) 634-0873
32740@lapd.lacity.org

Current Crime Trends
Many community members are unaware of the restrictions we have as police officers when it comes to homeless issues. We understand the frustrations of many of our community residents and business owners. However, on many of the community complaints received, we are restricted from enforcement due to current law suits or prior court decisions.

The biggest complaints received have been concerning property that appears overnight on our city sidewalks and streets. With each passing day, the collection of “personal” property grows, making some locations difficult or even impossible to even pass.

Something that seems like it would be so simple to resolve is actually not. Because this property may belong to an individual who appears homeless, the items must be clearly tagged by the city to give its owner sufficient time to remove any and all items. As time passes, the collection continues to grow.
and often times it’s not just one individual’s collection but many.

No area is exempt from this issue and we are constantly making efforts with outreach as well as enforcement. Our “HOPE” team has placed many into housing programs but we continue to assist with a social issue that the police department is not going to resolve. Often times, I am asked what community member can do to assist. I often times recommend that community members continue to use city resources like the “MyLA311” app and be diligent about submitting service requests to help clean up the area. This is a FREE city app and is very simple to use. If this is unavailable, the city 311 call center is the next best option for any bulky item removal.

Current Crime Trends

Year-to-Date, A43 Area is showing just a slight Year-to-Date increase of all crime categories from last year, with Grand Theft Auto being the most frequent crime in the Basic Car Area. The majority of the crimes are occurring on the Chandler Boulevard Corridor between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue. The vehicles stolen continue to be late-model Hondas and Toyotas.

Please assist us by parking in well-lit areas and insure you secure your vehicles.

Community Events

Valley Village Neighborhood Council
Colfax Elementary School
11724 Addison Street, Valley Village
Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Basic Car 15A67
Senior Lead Officer Robert Benavidez
Cell Phone (818) 634-0978
32151@lapd.lacity.org

Current Crime Trends

During this crime period, Grand Theft Auto (GTA) continues to be a concern as compared Year-to-Date with last year. Most of the vehicles stolen continue to be in the area north of the 134 Freeway to Magnolia Boulevard and east of the 170 Freeway to the City of Burbank. North Hollywood Area personnel continue to focus and provide extra patrol in the NoHo Arts area, Lankershim Boulevard and Magnolia Boulevard corridors, Hollywood Hills West adjacent to the Cahuenga Pass. High vehicle and pedestrian traffic continue in the area of Universal City.

Enforcement focus is in Reporting District 1955, west of Vineland Avenue and south of Magnolia Boulevard for property crimes, i.e., GTA and vehicle break-ins. Community messaging of the important reminder to lock and secure vehicles, and to keep any and all valuables out of sight in parked cars continues through websites and social media channels.

Community Events
Current Crime Trends
I have received multiple emails and calls regarding trash and homeless encampments and how the community can request clean ups directly. For areas that are City property a request can be made through Council Member Krekorian’s Office via Field Deputy Courtney Hamilton (818) 755-7676 or courtney.hamilton@lacity.org

For areas that are County property (this pertains to certain portions of the L.A. River) the Los Angeles County Flood Control District can be reached at (818) 896-0594 or https://dpw.lacounty.gov/contact/ for online requests.

Significantly, on September 2, 2016 a vigilant community member observed burglary suspects enter a neighbor’s side gate. She had the quick thinking to call the police with a description of the suspects and their vehicle. When North Hollywood patrol officers arrived they observed three suspects running from the location and enter that very same vehicle. After a vehicle pursuit that spanned multiple divisions, all three suspects were taken into custody. Often neighbors go unrecognized for their diligence and keen observational skills. I am thankful to work in a community where neighbors take care of each other at all hours of the day. What a fantastic example of community collaboration!

Community Events
Studio City Neighborhood Council Board Meeting
October 19, 2016 7:00 p.m.
4024 Radford Avenue
Studiocitync.org

Studio City Residents Association
Community Meeting
(Featuring Councilmember Paul Krekorian)
Rio Vista Elementary School
4243 Satsuma Ave, Studio City
November 1, 2016 7:00 p.m. - Studiocityresidents.org

A Message from our Community Relations Office:
Greetings from Community Relations! September was been a busy month in CRO! We were able to be a part of a variety of events. So, here it goes…

On September 11, 2016 we were able to participate in Operation Gratitude with some of our Jeopardy
Students and Cadets. This foundation was created following the 9-11 incidents. This organization pays tribute to our country’s military personnel and first responders by sending out care packages and first aid/supply bags each month of the year. September’s event paid tribute to first responders in the City of Los Angeles. Over 2,000 volunteers appeared to assist with packaging supply bags, including Cadets from North Hollywood and Devonshire Division Posts. Over 10,000 bags were stuffed in less than an hour’s time!

On September 15, 2016, the Elysian Park Academy hosted an Open House to celebrate the remodeling of the original academy building and new construction of additional classrooms. The Mayor, local council members, the Chief of Police and staff from every police division in the City were a part of the event and were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

On September 18, 2016, the CRO Unit and Cadets assisted our CPAB members with an Outreach event at the Target Store in North Hollywood. Together as a team, we made contact with over a 100 store patrons. We successfully acquired new Neighborhood Watch memberships and distributed information about Crime Prevention, Emergency Preparedness and the Cadet & Jeopardy programs! Our next Outreach Event is scheduled for Thursday November 17th at East Valley High School’s Open House.

On September 22, 2016, sworn and civilian personnel from division were recognized by the Police Officer’s Association of Los Angeles County, for their contributions to the Department in the 2015 calendar year. A special “thank you” goes to our PALS Board members for sponsoring North Hollywood’s nominees at the luncheon.

On September 28, 2016, our PALS Board again stepped in and hosted an awards recognition for officers of the 3rd quarter of 2016 as well as a farewell tribute to Josh Rubenstein, a former CPAB and PALS Board Member. The event was held at PINZ Bowling and officers were awarded certificates from both the Department and Councilman Krekorian. They also received gift certificates to PINZ, courtesy of our PALS Board President, Scott Frager!

Councilman Krekorian, our North Hollywood Command and current and former PALS Board Presidents acknowledged Josh for his contributions as a volunteer with CPAB and the PALS Board from 2009 to the present. Josh recently commenced an assignment with LAPD’s Media Relations Office; we wish him all the best and are proud of this position he has worked toward attaining!

So, that was a glimpse of September. Looking ahead into October, just a reminder to mark your calendars for October 26, 2016, the first annual
East Valley Emergency Preparedness Summit,

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD POLICE STATION**
**TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITE INFORMATION**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAIN NUMBER/FRONT DESK</td>
<td>(818) 754-8300</td>
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<tr>
<td>DETECTIVE DIVISION</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE (CRO)</td>
<td>(818) 754-8470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR LEAD OFFICE (SLO)</td>
<td>(818) 754-8358</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTH HOLLYWOOD CRIME TIP LINE</td>
<td>(818) 754-8480</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLICE ACTIVITY LEAGUE SUPPORTERS (PALS) WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nohopals.com">www.nohopals.com</a></td>
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<td>PALS FACEBOOK PAGE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/nohopals">www.facebook.com/nohopals</a></td>
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hosted by our Police Advisory Board Members, our local Council members, members of our Department, members of the American Red Cross and a representative from CalTech. The event will take place at LA Valley College from 6-8:30 pm and is open to the public. Contact either of the following Council Deputies to RSVP for the event:
Geoffrey.Yazzetta@lacity.org or Alice.Roth@lacity.org

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**A Message from Terrorist Liaison Officer**

As a reminder, the prevention of terrorism and violent crimes is everyone's responsibility. You are all the eyes and ears in the community and law enforcement needs your help in keeping you all safe. If you see something suspicious, immediately notify law enforcement by calling 911. A simple call may prevent a tragedy from occurring.

[http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something](http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something)

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**GLOSSARY OF PART I CRIMES**

- HOMICIDE
- RAPE
- BURGLARY
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS
- ROBBERY
- BURGLARY/THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
- PERSONAL/OTHER THEFT
- AUTO THEFT