GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Please come out and help shape the future of your community.

NOTE: The below meetings are being held via Zoom due to Covid19 Mayor’s Executive Order. Please reach out to them for the link to the meeting and additional information.

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council:** General Board Meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Location: Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA.

**Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Location: Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Valley Glen Neighborhood Association:** General meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of every even numbered month at 7:00 p.m., Location: Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Location: Milikan Middle School, 5041 Sunnyslope Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners’ Association:** General meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Location: Notre Dame High School located at 13645 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting:** General meeting is the last Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., Location: Bernardi Senior Center, 6514 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys, CA.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, please call your Senior Lead Officer at the numbers listed below for further details.
Who to Contact

For crimes in progress and medical emergencies dial: 911.

To report any suspicious activity or person(s) call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at: 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273).

Please let your friends and family that live in the City know about the Department’s Community Online Reporting Service (CORS). LAPD offers online reporting service at www.lapdonline.org. We highly encourage using this fast and easy service to avoid coming to the station. The following crimes are eligible for online reporting: Theft, Lost Property, Theft/Burglary from a motor vehicle, Identity theft, Non-injury hit and run traffic collisions, Annoying or Harassing phone calls/texts/emails, and Vandalism. Upon completion of your online reporting, you will immediately receive a temporary report number and be able to print a copy of the report. The following requirements must be met to complete online reporting services:

• The incident is not an emergency.
• The incident occurred within the City of Los Angeles.
• You must be at least 18 years old.
• No one was injured as a result of the incident.
• There are no known suspect(s).
• The incident did not occur on the state highway.
• No firearms were involved in the incident.
• You must have an email address.

The “411” on 211, 311, 511 and 811.

Dial “211” or www.211la.org – “Help Starts Here” – LA County Social Services
211 LA County links ALL Los Angeles County residents to social services. It functions as a gateway to the county’s vast and complex social service delivery system. 211 is a guide to resources and information needed to navigate life in Los Angeles. You can request assistance of any kind for yourself, family, friend or a stranger!

Dial “311” or www.lacity.org/311 - “One Call to City Hall”
Los Angeles Residents can simply dial 3-1-1, toll free, everyday (7am to 10pm), for information and access to more than 1500 Non-Emergency City Services, commonly used for Bulky Item Pick Up, Graffiti Removal, Barking Dog. Or download the MYLA311 app for 24-hour access to these same services and you can pay your LADWP Bill as well!

Dial “511” or www.go511.com – “Freeway Traffic Updates, One Call Away”
Southern California 511 is a free traveler information service that gives you traffic, transit and commuter service information in Southern California via a toll-free phone number and website. Check real time traffic speeds, find traffic alerts, view live traffic cameras, plan a trip on a bus or train, and even find a carpool or vanpool!

Dial “811” or www.digalert.org – “Know What’s Below. Call Before you Dig”
Whether you are planning on doing it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means call 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job require a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs.
Happy New Year to everyone! Let us all gladly say good-by to 2020 and welcome 2021. As we close out 2020 we ended our year with our overall part one crimes down from last year at -5.93%. This is not an easy achievement, and I would like to thank our community members who assisted us in law enforcement to help keep our communities safe.

On December 15th Van Nuys Division had its Holiday Drive Through Event which was a big success! It was a chance for families to get out of the house, enjoy some holiday lights, and even see Santa all from the safety of their vehicles. There were approximately 300-400 vehicles in attendance and we were able to give away 120 food boxes along with 300 stockings. Thank you to everyone who attended and practiced social distancing.

Neighborhood Watch Programs
There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner. Resident involvement is essential to combat crime. You and your neighbors are the ones who know what is going on in your neighborhood. By cooperating with each other and with local law enforcement, people can help fight crime in their community the most effective way—by stopping it before it begins. Neighbors place signs in their windows and post signs on streets to warn criminals that they are in an active crime prevention neighborhood and that “neighbors are watching out for each other.” If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch or Business Watch in Basic Car 9A5, please send me an email and I can work with you and your group to get one started!

Another excellent resource for keeping your neighborhood safe is to get involved with Nextdoor.com to further enhance our ability to work hand and hand with your neighbor. Nextdoor.com is an internet site that you can only join as a verified resident in your neighborhood. It is a great way to keep up with what’s going on with your neighbors and stay aware of what’s happening in your specific area.

I would like to remind everyone about Vehicle Security, which contributes to our property crime numbers. You can help prevent vehicle theft! Here are a few reminders:
- Always lock up your vehicle when you leave it and take your keys with you.
- Do not leave packages, cell phones, or other items in plain view, always try to take them with you.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit location, avoid isolated areas.

Remember personal security, avoid becoming a victim of crime:
- Always be aware of the people around you, and of the locations.
- Be alert of your surroundings, stay in well lighted areas, avoid door-ways, bushes and alleys.
- Make eye contact with people when walking, do not respond to conversations with strangers on the street.

We want to remind our community members to utilize the non-emergency number, 1-877-ASK-LAPD for incidents requiring immediate police assistance or for non-emergency calls.
Happy New Year! Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and prosperous 2021.

I’m happy to report that we ended 2020 with a -10.74% decrease in Violent Crime, a 2% increase in Property Crime and a -0.59% reduction in all Part One Crimes compared to last year. Again, I contribute the success of these numbers to the concentrated efforts of our specialize units, Senior Lead Officers and patrol in the Neighborhood Engagement Area (NEA.) The NEA enforcements efforts by Van Nuys Division will continue well into 2021.

**Craigslist Scams**

Craigslist is a classified advertisements website with sections devoted to jobs, housing, personals, for sale items, merchandise, services, community, gigs, résumés and discussion forums. Due to its popularity it is easy for the criminal element to capitalize on the credibility of a useful tool. If not careful, you can expose yourself to financial loss, fraud and even more serious crimes such as robbery and murder. Below are a few things to watch out for when using Craigslist:

- Claims that Craigslist will guarantee a transaction, certify a buyer/ seller and provide protection from a payment
- A distant person offers a genuine-looking cashier’s check that is fake
- Someone requests wire service payment via money wiring services
- Someone you do not know offers to send you a money order and have you wire money
- Offers or suggestions to use an online escrow service
- A foreign company offers you a job receiving payments from customers then wiring funds

**Here are some ways to avoid being scammed:**

- Deal with folks you can meet in person and meet them in a public place, like a police station. If they refuse to meet it may be a scam
- Never wire funds via money wiring services
- Understand that fake money orders and cashier’s checks are common
- Craigslist is not involved in any transaction
- Avoid deals involving shipping and escrow services. Only a scammer will guarantee a transaction
- Do not rent housing or purchase goods without seeing them for yourself
- Never submit to background checks
If you feel you have been scammed by anyone via Craigslist or if you have information on this type of crime calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous should call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477). Tipsters may also contact Crime Stoppers by texting to phone number 274637 (C-R-I-M-E-S on most keypads) with a cell phone. All text messages should begin with the letters “LAPD.” Tipsters may also go to LAPDOnline.org, click on "webtips" and follow the prompts.

**Neighborhood Watch!** An involved community is an informed community. If you are interested participating in a Traditional Neighborhood Watch meeting (with social distancing) or to restart an existing one, please email me at 35569@lapd.online or call at 818-731-2566.

**Basic Car 9A23:**
Senior Lead Officer George Lara
E-mail: 38454@lapd.online
Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557

Happy New Year to all of you! 2020 was definitely a year to be remembered or forgotten, depending on your point of view. I am very optimistic and hopeful that this year will be much better for all of us and that we will again continue to see a decrease in crime as we have seen over the last few months. We closed the year looking very strong with a significant decrease in crime, as of Tuesday December 14, we saw a year to date reduction of 13.57% in Violent Crime, 18.55% in Property Crime and 17.44% in Part 1 Crimes.

As you can see, these numbers are good! But I need your help in keeping these numbers down. During my day to day patrols of your neighborhood, I have noticed some issues that require some attention and would like to provide some tips on how we can make our neighborhood the safest and best place to be in.

Abandoned property, bulky items and graffiti can reported to 311, it’s the easiest most effective way to get rid of these. If you see abandoned shopping carts in your neighborhood, send me an email or a text message with a picture and where the shopping cart is from and I will notify the store to come and collect their cart. If the abandoned property is on your lawn or within your property line, you can dispose of it as you see fit.

One of the recurring issues that we have in our area is Theft and Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Please ensure that you have locked your vehicle and that you remove all items from plain view. The recipe is quite simple, Lock It! Hide It! Keep It! This goes for when visiting shopping centers, supermarkets and even in your home. One of my goals for 2021 is to reach out to as many of you as possible, even though we may not be able to meet in person, please consider forming neighborhood watch groups that could meet virtually on any of the available platforms. If you have any ideas or would wish to send out a message to your neighborhood, please send it to me and I will ensure that the message gets delivered. Remember, I am only a phone call or text message away. But if you need more immediate police response, do not hesitate to call 877-ASK-LAPD or to dial 911 for emergencies.

**Basic Car 9A37:**
Acting Senior Lead Officer Jose Leon
Email Address: 37541@lapd.online
Cell Phone: (818) 731-2562

I am happy to report, as of December 12, 2020, violent crime is down -32.26%, property crime is unfortunately up by 10.57%, and Part 1 crimes are up 2.45%. Although property crime has slightly risen, our violent crime is down significantly. The property crimes that are occurring are theft, burglaries, theft from motor vehicle (TFMV), burglary from motor vehicle (BFMV, these are crimes of opportunity. These crimes are very preventable. Some preventable measures that can be taken to prevent burglaries are: have good lighting on all sides of your property, invest in a good surveillance camera system. Get to know your neighbors, build a
relationship with them and let them know when you plan on going out of town, so they can keep an eye on your residence.

When leaving your residence and are expecting packages through the mail, let your neighbor know if they can pick it up for you, or advise the delivery company to drop the package over the fence where it’s hidden from public view.

When exiting your vehicles make sure that any property of value is hidden under the seat, on the floor board or by placing it in the trunk. Items of value that are harder to see, are less likelihood to attract the attention of burglars.

Remember to double check that your vehicle is secure by re-chirping your alarm to verify that the alarm system has been activated. And if possible manually pull on the door handle to verify that the door is locked. If you tandem park your vehicle, remember to take the key/car fog from both vehicles, suspect who are professional thieves know that people leave keys/key fobs in their vehicles to save time when having to leave for work in the morning creating a prime opportunity for a crime to occur.

If you park your vehicle in a driveway and use a garage remote to enter your residence, try and take the remote with you. Criminals will always take the garage door remote because it’s an item that is so small and insignificant that most people forget to change to access code allowing criminals to return later.

Meet with your Senior Lead Officer to form Neighborhood Watch groups. Communities with a neighborhood watch programs have a less likelihood of becoming victims because criminals know that the community is active and vigilant for outsiders.

The encampment at the 101 Freeway & Fulton Ave, has been free and clear of homeless individuals. For the homeless encampments at the 101 Freeway & Coldwater Canyon Ave, I’ve been working with council district-4, and have been successful in keeping the area clear of debris and trash, along with homeless outreach services. There have also been more clean ups in the area. If you or your neighbors would like to take an active part in keeping your neighborhood clean, I can assist you in organizing a community clean up. I will be vigilant in maintaining these areas and stay active by utilizing the “My LA 311” to schedule bulky item clean ups as well.

Lastly, it has been a pleasure working with everyone within the community and those of you who I had the pleasure of meeting. I will be applying for the permanent Senior Lead Officer position (when it is available) and hope to be serving you soon. Mary Christmas, and Happy New Year. I Hope everybody has a prosperous 2021

**Basic Car 9A41**  
Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori  
Cell Phone: 818-731-2560  
Email Address: 32914@lapd.online

As we enter the month of January and the New Year 2021 I hope everyone is staying healthy! We ended the year with our Part One Crimes down -2.19 % year to date. We want to remind our community members to utilize the non-emergency number, 1-877-ASK-LAPD for incidents requiring immediate police assistance or for non-emergency calls, utilize 911 for Violent Crimes in progress.

The following Safety Tips were compiled in cooperation with the LAPD Crime Prevention Section, to contribute to the safety and security of people during and after the holiday season! We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friend, and neighbors! The Los Angeles Police Department wishes you a safe, happy, healthy and peaceful new year!
Keep all car door locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Always set your car alarm.

Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.

Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car. Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag or parcels. When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.

Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse. They are prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and any other rapid transit.

Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows and setting the alarm when you leave the house, even for a short period of time.

When leaving home for an extended period, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up any newspapers, mail or packages.

These are only a few recommendations for more tips go to LAPDONLINE.org

**Neighborhood Watch Programs**

There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner. Resident involvement is essential to combat crime. You and your neighbors are the ones who know what is going on in your neighborhood. By cooperating with each other and with local law enforcement, people can help fight crime in their community the most effective way—by stopping it before it begins. Neighbors place signs in their windows and post signs on streets to warn criminals that they are in an active crime prevention neighborhood and that “neighbors are watching out for each other.” If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch or Business Watch in Basic Car A41, please send me an email and I can work with you and your group to get one started!

**Basic Car 9A63**

Acting Senior Lead Officer Juan Hernandez  
Cell Phone: 818-731-2563  
Email Address: 37582@lapd.online

Hello and Happy New Year! As of December 15, 2020, we have seen an increase of 11.29% in Violent Crime, good news is that we have seen a decrease of 25.45% in Property Crime and a decrease of 23.07% in Part 1 Crimes.

As we head into the first month of 2021, our focus will remain even further reducing the incidence of property crimes. Specifically, with regards to vehicle break-ins and residential burglaries. Please stay vigilant and properly secure your homes as it relates to closing and locking windows at night. With this said, please continue to stay alert and report suspicious activity as it relates to a residential burglary. The more layers of deterrent towards hardening the target of your residence helps to reduce your chances of being victimized. Please continue to stay involved with a Neighborhood Watch Program and get to know your neighbors. Remember, the best crime-fighting tool ever invented was a “good neighbor!”

Please remember that MyLA 311 application for your smart phone is an easy way to report:

- Illegal Dumping.
- Graffiti Removal.
- Animal Complaints/Violations.
- Trash.
- Issues related to parks, trees, streetlights and other related to city properties.
- Homeless encampments.
• Miscellaneous Public Right-of-Way Investigations.
• Street Problems and Repairs.

The app is free to download and use and you don’t have to register or sign-up with your personal information. If you do not have a smart phone or would rather call, you can do so by dialing 311 from any working telephone.

**Basic Car 9A89**
Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana
Cell Phone: 818-731-2565
Email Address: 30853@lapd.online

Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. As of December 2020, Basic Car 9A89 is down – 9.14% in Property Crimes year-to-date and down on Violent Crimes year-to-date – 8.20%.

Please be extra vigilant these upcoming holidays. We have noticed an increase on packaged thefts these past few months, track you package and attempt to be home when the package arrives or have it delivered to a safe storage location.

Please e-mail me any suspicious activity in the form of videos or photos. This can be our most significant source of information for developing leads on open cases. Please help us help you by being aware of what is going on in your neighborhood. Remember, the best way to avoid becoming a victim yourself is to remove all valuables from your vehicle every time you leave it. Do not leave anything that is not attached to your vehicle in plain sight. Make sure your cars and homes are locked and secured using as many crime prevention tools as possible.

For information on volunteer opportunities with the LAPD, email Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online, or call (818) 374-5420. Program Information, the application process, and current volunteer opportunities will be provided. All applicants are required to be fingerprinted as part of LAPD background procedures.

The City of Los Angeles has developed a program called Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) to help your family and your neighborhood prepare for disasters.

RYLAN gives you the steps to take immediately after a disaster to help keep you and your family safe. It provides the tools to prepare and organize your neighborhood to respond together in that first hour after a disaster to reduce injuries, protect your property, the environment, and most importantly, to save lives. For more information go to website [http://emergency.lacity.org](http://emergency.lacity.org).

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO’s City cell phone/email is not for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out on a radio call. The front desk officers are here to take telephonic reports and answer questions, not dispatch calls.

### Crime Prevention Tips

- **IF YOU’RE HOME AND SOMEONE KNOCKS OR RINGS YOUR DOORBELL, DO NOT IGNORE IT.** Would be burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person without opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them.
• **SECURITY AND/OR DOOR BELL SYSTEMS WITH VIDEO** are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider these options to protect your home.

• **DON’T LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN YOUR VEHICLES.** Whether you are tandem parked, parked in a garage, or just going inside for a moment (i.e. gas station, your home, etc.), do not leave your keys in your vehicles.

• **STEERING WHEEL LOCKS.** 1990’s Toyota’s and Honda’s are some of the most common vehicles stolen. These vehicles have door locks and ignitions that are easily compromised. Steering wheel locks are good tools to assist in deterring criminals from taking these vehicles.

• **LOCK YOUR CAR AND PARK IT IN A GARAGE OR LIGHTED AREA.** Make it difficult to get into your car. If it is outside, make your car as visible as possible. Do not leave anything valuable or visible in your vehicles.

• **LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS** when you leave the house. Close your blinds/drapes so no one can see into your house. Keep every part of your residence locked and secured, including your garage. Strategic lighting can also assist with crime prevention.

• **DON’T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT,** place them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.

• **TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR,** this includes your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.

• **SHOPPING CART.** Do not leave your purses in the shopping cart while loading your vehicles.

**January Fun Facts:**

- The name of January month was named after god Janus known as God of new beginnings. It is known that God Janus had two heads through which he could watch in both directions, back to the old year and front towards the new year.
- January was not included in ancient Roman calendar. King Numa Pompilius is supposed to add this month to in around 713 BC.
- Camellia is the Japanese floral emblem of January month.
- Prunus is the Chinese floral emblem of January.
- Cottage pink Dianthus caryophyllus is the birthday flower for January born people.
- Garnet is the birth stone of this month which represents constancy.
- January is also known for National Blood Donor Month, National Braille Literacy Month, National Hobby Month, National Soup Month, National Staying Healthy Month.