

Rampart Area History

In 1966, Rampart Area entered into service at its original location at 2710 West Temple Street – the current home of Metropolitan Division. Rampart Area would assume the responsibility of serving neighborhoods which once fell under the boundaries of Central, Hollywood, Highland Park (Northeast), Newton, University, and Wilshire stations. It became the 16th geographical division for the LAPD. Its geographical boundaries currently serve the neighborhoods to the west of Downtown Los Angeles including Silver Lake, Echo Park, Pico-Union, and Westlake.

Its modern location is located at 1401 West 6th Street – the final location of the City's Central Receiving Hospital before its closure in 1970. At this location on June 5, 1968, surgeons worked tirelessly to save the life of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who had been shot after giving a speech at the nearby Ambassador Hotel. Unfortunately, Senator Kennedy succumbed to his injuries the following day, on June 6, 1968.

Rampart Area and the LAPD would be the focal point of national news and scrutiny in 1998, when the discovery of stolen narcotics which were booked as evidence was traced back to Rafael Perez, a former officer of the now dissolved Rampart Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) unit. In the following year, Officer Perez would allege that he and other Rampart Division officers engaged in illegal actions, including perjury, staged shootings, false arrests, false evidence, witness intimidation, beatings, theft, and drug dealing. Perez offered to cooperate with investigators in exchange for a reduced sentence. Because of the investigation, the L.A. District Attorney reviewed hundreds of cases related to the above allegations and overturned the convictions of four men. In 2001, the Department entered in to a Consent Decree with the Department of Justice.

On May 1, 2007, a peaceful march and rally concluded at Macarthur Park, in Rampart Area's boundaries. The rally ended in confrontation between officers and community members, believed to be the result of a small group of individuals attempting to incite a disturbance. Images and videos emerged of helmeted officers using batons and less-lethal munitions to strike members of the public and media, which were disconcerting. As a result, Chief William Bratton issued a formal apology, demoted the incident commander, disciplined 17 officers, and the City paid more than \$13 million dollars in damages. Chief Bratton also requested the development of Department-wide Mobile Field Force and Crowd Control Training.

In 2010, the Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) of Manuel Jamines-Xum , who was alleged to have been intoxicated and armed with a knife resulted in protest and calls for community action. Jamines was known to speak K'iche, an Indigenous language, but officers only gave commands in English and Spanish before the OIS occurred. In the aftermath of the shooting, community members collaborated with the Department to create training and resources to assist officers in identifying Indigenous languages and tools to assist them in communicating with community members whom speak these languages. Indigenous language identification cards are available as a resource to assist officers in communication with community members.

Rampart Area has been the division of assignment for many members of the Department who have been awarded the Medal of Valor, such as Officers Ralph Camarillo, Osvaldo Delgadillo, Laurissa Hulsebus, Abel Muñoz, and Carlos Ocegueda - who responded to a pre-dawn fire of a 60-unit building in December 2005. Fighting heavy smoke, the officers saved the lives of two wheelchair-bound tenants and ensured the safety of many other frightened residents. The five officers persisted with their rescue efforts until the fire department arrived.