

Harbor Area Divisional History

Long before Harbor Area had its name, it was known simply as “San Pedro Station.” When the San Pedro City Hall opened in 1928, the police station was on the first floor, while the jail was on the seventh floor. While “San Pedro Station” has since been renamed to “Harbor Area” and moved, The San Pedro City Hall remains standing today at 638 S Beacon Street.

However, to trace the roots of Harbor Area, one must look further back – specifically to the late 1800’s. When Los Angeles City leaders set their sights on annexing the Cities of San Pedro and Wilmington to establish a port to serve the rest of Los Angeles, but they had a problem: State Law at the time dictated a City could only take a port area if that port was connected by contiguous land mass. Because of this, efforts were underway by the late 1800’s into the early 1900’s to annex cities to complete the connection of Los Angeles to the sea.

In 1906, the City of Los Angeles annexed a formerly unincorporated long narrow strip of land running from Central Los Angeles south to the Cities of San Pedro and Wilmington, with the hopes citizens of both Cities would vote to consolidate their cities into Los Angeles. They were successful. Once the former Cities of Wilmington and San Pedro were consolidated into Los Angeles, the former members of their respective City Marshals were absorbed into the Los Angeles Police Department.

At the time that the cities of San Pedro and Wilmington consolidating into Los Angeles, as part of the deal, both former cities would always have a police station within their original boundaries. The then-planned Harbor Station would be located at the dividing line between San Pedro and Wilmington, with one half of the Station in each of the former cities, upholding the original agreements made 53 years prior.

In 1962, a new Harbor Community Police Station located at 2175 John S. Gibson Boulevard was completed and began to serve the area. The San Pedro Division and Wilmington Substations were renamed as simply “Harbor Division” at that time.

This new station served the area until 2005, at which time it was demolished to pave the way for the construction of a new modernized station. While the new station was being constructed, Harbor Area personnel continued to serve the community from a set of trailers located at 221 North Bayview Avenue.

In 2009, the new Harbor Community Police Station located at 2175 John S. Gibson Boulevard was completed and continued carrying on the legacy of service which the Los Angeles Police Department has had in Harbor Area.