

HOLLENBECK DIVISION HISTORY

The roots of Hollenbeck Area's service to the East Los Angeles Communities traces back to 1889, where it was simply a heated room with a telephone known as the Boyle Heights Substation. Then, Officers reported daily at headquarters before walking or riding a bicycle to the substation. In 1911, East Side Station and Hollenbeck Station would open. While the Hollenbeck name would be carried on to modern times, East Side Station would evolve in to the Lincoln Heights Jail and eventually close in 1965. Hollenbeck's first police station existed at 2015 East 1ST Street, the modern site of the Hollenbeck Youth Center. The Hollenbeck Community Police Station is now located at 2111 East 1st Street, only one block east of its original location.

Historic incidents within the geographical area of Hollenbeck Division include the enforcement of Special Order 9066, which forcefully interred thousands of Japanese community members during World War II; the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943; the Chicano Moratorium of 1968-1970; and the arrest of serial killer Richard Ramirez, also known as the "Nightstalker" after community members captured him in a local neighborhood.

Rudy De Leon became the first Hispanic Commanding Officer in 1970 as Captain of Hollenbeck Station. Known for pioneering efforts in community policing, De Leon targeted street-gang problems by creating a boxing club for youths in the basement of his station. After retirement, De Leon continued a career in civil service as a member of the State Board of Prison Terms, an assistant to the State Attorney General, and the first Ombudsman of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Joyce Kano, the Department's first female Asian police officer appointed in 1968, served as a Detective assigned to Hollenbeck Area until her retirement.