

HOLLYWOOD AREA HISTORY

When the City of Hollywood was officially incorporated in 1903, it had its own police station and police force, in a small station located 131 North Cahuenga Boulevard. That all changed on February 18th, 1910, when the City of Los Angeles annexed Hollywood to receive water from the City's new water supply. The old Hollywood police station which once belonged to an independent city was now a substation for officers who had to report from Downtown to handle calls for service and conduct patrol.

In October of 1913, the new Hollywood Fire and Police Station was built. Hollywood Division now stood at 1625 North Cahuenga Boulevard, across from their old substation. With a rapidly growing population, and need for a larger police facility, the City of Los Angeles dedicated the new Hollywood Police Station and Receiving Hospital in March of 1930. The new location was where the station stands today at 1358 North Wilcox Avenue. After a remodeling, the station's current structure reopened in 1979. In total, four stations have existed under the name "Hollywood."

Throughout Hollywood's history, high-profile incidents which Hollywood Area officers were involved include: The Griffith Park Merry Go Round incident of 1961, Sunset Strip Curfew Riots of 1966, Griffith Park LGBTQ+ demonstration on Memorial Day 1969, Manson Family Murders of 1969, SLA Car Bombing/Hollywood Patrol Car Bombing of 1975, the 1981 Wonderland Murders, the 1981 arrest of two LAPD Officers – Ronald Venegas and Jack Myers for hundreds of burglaries committed on duty, the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising, and the 2020 George Floyd Protests Against Police Brutality.

Officer Ian Campbell and his partner Officer Karl Hettinger were kidnapped at gunpoint during a traffic stop on March 9th, 1963 at the intersection of Carlos Avenue and Gower Street. The suspects, Gregory Powell and Jimmy Smith, drove the officers to an onion field near Bakersfield, where Powell shot Officer Campbell execution-style as Officer Hettinger escaped and sought help at a barn approximately 4 miles away. Both suspects were later apprehended and convicted for their crimes. This incident, known as the "Onion Field" resulted in numerous policy and tactical changes for officers.

Hollywood's geographical area represents a major tourist attraction to Los Angeles. With landmarks such as the Hollywood and Highland Center, Hollywood Sign, Sunset Strip, Hollywood Bowl, and other venues, Hollywood Area engages in numerous events yearly which demand the assistance of officers from all throughout the City to maintain peace and safety.