

## NEWTON AREA HISTORY

Newton Area is currently located at 3400 South Central Avenue. When Newton Station opened its doors on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1925, it absorbed the divisional boundaries of 77<sup>th</sup>, Central, Hollenbeck, and University (Southwest) Divisions. With its major thoroughfare as Central Avenue, the original Newton Police Station stood just east of it at 1354 Newton Street. On the opposite side of Central Avenue, and within eyesight of Newton Station, was Los Angeles City Fire Station No. 30. During these early years, both Newton Station and Fire Station No. 30 were predominantly staffed by African-American personnel, as segregation affected the City of Los Angeles.

Because of racial segregation, notable figures such as Roscoe "Rocky" Washington, who would be the first African-American Lieutenant in the Department, and then-officer Tom Bradley, who would later become the first African American Mayor of Los Angeles, were assigned to patrol the streets of Newton Area. An end to segregation in the LAPD would occur in the 1960s.

Throughout its near century of service, officers assigned to Newton Area have experienced and aided the community during disasters and accidents like the O'Conner Plating Company Explosion in 1947, the Redondo Junction Train Wreck of 1956, and when a tornado touched down in Downtown Los Angeles in 1983. Additionally, multiple critical incidents involving the LAPD occurred within Newton Area's boundaries. These include the Black Panther Raid of 1969, the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) shootout in 1974, and the 49<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School Shooting in 1984.

In recent history, the Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) of Ezell Ford in 2014 resulted in advanced training for officers regarding the topics of use of force and the preservation of life. Included within this training were concepts and skills which were designed to reduce the intensity of an encounter, identify the signs and symptoms of mental illness, and build public trust through implicit bias training.