

## NORTH HOLLYWOOD AREA HISTORY

Like Hollenbeck Area, North Hollywood Area began as a substation on Chandler Boulevard, east of Lankershim in the San Fernando Valley. When the Los Angeles Police Department opened Valley Division on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1924, officers were responsible for providing service to an area of over 200 square miles. As the San Fernando Valley's population grew, it became evident that more stations would be needed to better serve the communities that were rapidly developing. The North Hollywood Substation would remain a fixture on Chandler Boulevard until 1958.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1958, North Hollywood Division entered into service as the Department's 14<sup>th</sup> geographic division. Its original location was at 11480 Tiara Street. During this time, what would be notable of the division was its backdrop as the filming location for many Adam-12 episodes in the neighborhoods of Toluca Lake and North Hollywood.

The division would remain there until 1997, but not leave that location before experiencing one of the most defining moments in the Department's history. On the morning of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1997, two heavily armed men wearing body armor planned to rob the Bank of America located at 6600 Laurel Canyon Boulevard. As the suspects walked up the steps with machine guns and duffle bags in hand, two officers assigned to North Hollywood Division were driving by and watched as they entered. A request for assistance was immediately responded to with dozens of units assigned to North Hollywood and neighboring divisions. Shots were heard fired within the bank, and more resources were requested. When the suspects exited, a 45-minute shootout ensued. The gun battle was televised as officers dodged rounds, returned fire, and ultimately stopped both suspects from fleeing. While both suspects succumbed to injuries sustained from police gunfire, no civilians or police officers were killed. The aftermath of the shootout entailed a heavy joint-agency investigation into the lives and acquaintances of both suspects, improved police tactics and weaponry, and the coining of that date as "the day willpower defeated firepower!"

The new and current North Hollywood Station opened on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1997. It is currently located at 11640 Burbank Boulevard. In recent times, North Hollywood Area made headlines when in September 2014, actress Daniele Watts was briefly detained after a witness called the police alleging indecent exposure occurred. Watts accused the responding officers of racial profiling. When a recording of the encounter was made public, doubt was cast on her allegation and eventually led to Watts apologizing to the involved officers for the false statement.