

OLYMPIC DIVISION HISTORY

As the 20th police station in the Los Angeles Police Department, Olympic Division is the second newest station in the Department's history. Opening in January 2009, the station was named after Olympic Boulevard, a major thoroughfare running westbound towards the ocean from Downtown Los Angeles. Olympic Boulevard was once known as 10th Street, but was renamed in honor of the 1932 Olympic Games, which were hosted in Los Angeles.

Olympic Area absorbed parts of the geographic areas of Hollywood, Wilshire, and Rampart, when it opened in 2009. Therefore, to discuss the distant history of Olympic Area, one must also talk about incidents from these. What was once the Ambassador Hotel existing in the boundary of Olympic Area is now a collective of schools named the "Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools", located at 701 South Catalina Street. It was on this site on June 5th, 1968, that Senator and Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan. Senator Kennedy survived through the day but passed away from his injuries at Central Receiving Hospital on June 6th, 1968. The location where this hospital once stood is now the Rampart Community Police Station at 1401 West 6th Street.

Olympic Area also serves the Koreatown community of Los Angeles. The 1992 Los Angeles Uprising was a period of civil unrest between April 29th to May 4th, 1992 which was propelled by racial tensions, the acquittal of four officers in the assault against Rodney King, and death of 15 year old Latasha Harlins, an African-American Female who was shot and killed by Korean store owner Soon Ja Du in South Los Angeles. Like other communities throughout Los Angeles during that time, Koreatown faced violence, looting, and a sense of abandonment by the police noted by some community members who experienced the civil unrest and reside in the community today.

In January 2016, Officer Joe Ciritto was assigned to Olympic Division. Officer Ciritto made headlines by participating in a 13 mile marathon in full police uniform including his bulletproof vest, 26 pound equipment belt, hat, wool uniform, and boots. He completed another marathon yet again that year, this time running in the same gear for 26.2 miles in the Los Angeles Marathon. Officer Ciritto cited the reasons for running in full uniform included honoring officers who have been killed in the line of duty and to bring attention and raise funds to fight homelessness in communities.

A tradition birthed within Olympic Station is the annual "Operation Shoes from Santa," which solicits donations of shoes and other necessities for underprivileged children in the area.