

WILSHIRE AREA HISTORY

Wilshire Area has existed at three locations, with two around the block from one another. Wilshire Division was established in 1922 on Wilshire Boulevard in the Koreatown area, but outgrew its location within three years. Then, Wilshire Station's second location opened on December 28th, 1925 at 4526 West Pico Boulevard. It remained there until 1973, when it moved around the block to its current location at 4861 Venice Boulevard.

When former Mayor Tom Bradley served in the Los Angeles Police Department, he was assigned as Watch Commander of Wilshire Station. Bradley was one of only three African-American men who had reached the rank of Lieutenant during his service. Tom Bradley retired from the Los Angeles Police Department in the early 1960's and went on to become one of the first African-American Members of Los Angeles City Council, and our City's first African American Mayor.

The murder of Elizabeth Short occurred around January 15th, 1947. Her body was discovered in the Leimert Park Area of Los Angeles, an area of responsibility for Wilshire Area at the time. Short's murder became highly publicized due to the mystery and graphic nature of it. Her murder has brought forth over 150 suspects but remains unsolved to this day. The case is commonly known as the "Black Dahlia".

In the early morning hours of March 9th, 1997, Christopher Wallace, also known as "Notorious B.I.G." and "Biggie Smalls" was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting after leaving a party at the Petersen Automotive Museum.

Singer Marvin Gaye was shot and killed by his father at their residence on April 1st, 1984 during an argument.

Communities in Wilshire Area experienced looting and violence during the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising.

In May 2020, thousands of protesters gathered in Pan Pacific Park and the surrounding area to call for justice in the murder of George Floyd by former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. The protest, while mostly peaceful, also brought individuals who sought to commit acts of looting, vandalism, and violence against community members and police officers. The response by police fell under scrutiny and brought about policy changes regarding the use of less-lethal munitions and other force against protestors.