

# 77<sup>th</sup> Area Community Newsletter

*January 2024*



**ADRIAN GONZALEZ**  
Captain III Commanding  
Officer 77<sup>th</sup> Street Area



**JOHNNY SMITH**  
Captain I  
Commanding Officer  
77<sup>th</sup> Street Patrol

**77<sup>TH</sup> STREET**





# Annual Work Plan Goals

It is the mission of the 77th Street Area Community Police Station to provide quality service to our community and to establish a safe environment for those who live, work and visit the 77th Street Area. We will work in partnership with the community in a courteous and respectful manner to protect lives, property and quality of life within our neighborhoods.

Our goal as a police department is to keep society free from crime and disorder. As the primary law enforcement agency within our geographical boundaries, we are committed to identifying, arresting, and prosecuting criminals.

In keeping with the Department's Mission Statement and Core Values, we are also committed to promoting a healthy work environment for our employees in which they are supported, empowered and valued, allowing them to be productive.

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## **77th Street Area Goals:**

- Reduce Part I crimes by 1 percent
- Strengthen the Community-Police Partnership
- Build morale through leadership and an employee-centered station
- Reduce serious injury and fatal related traffic collisions by 1 percent
- Maintain and strengthen the Area Safe Parks Program



# Senior Lead Officer Owen Mills (12SL3)

*Our Officers worked very hard last year to keep crime stat numbers down but by working together we can do even better.*

- Vehicle thefts numbers continue to be on the rise.

How to prevent your vehicle from getting stolen:

Place a security device on your steering wheel (the club).

- Park your vehicle in a well-lit /secure area. (your driveway)
- Most vehicle theft occur between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM.
- The most common stolen vehicles are Kia's, Hyundai's, Hondas, and Toyotas.

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## Neighborhood Events

- **We value your input.** Join us **February 12, 2024 from 5-7 pm.** 77<sup>th</sup> Division will be hosting a **Town Hall Meeting at Crenshaw Christian Center, 7901 S Vermont Ave.** How can we better serve our community? We will be fielding your questions.

- **Chesterfield Square Community Block Club** Monthly Zoom Meeting Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 10:30am. Due covid-19 concerns the meetings are held via zoom.

- **Join Zoom**

**Meeting:** <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/82788155067?Pwd=VG04aWZnOV12eHdmRWpOaGIDT09>

- Meeting ID: 827 8815 5067 Passcode: 381949

- Dial by your location 1-669-900-6833 or 1-669-444-9171

- **Empowerment Council Central Neighborhood**

- Next meeting will be February 26, in person, 6 pm at Jackie Tatum/Harvard Recreation Center, 1535 W. 62<sup>nd</sup> Street. Meeting in Annex, W 61<sup>st</sup> St, & S. Hallidale Ave. Call 213-978-1551 or [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org) for more info.

## Crime Tips

- **Lock it.** A reminder to always lock your vehicle. **Hide it.** If you must leave valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight. **Keep it.** A positive reminder that personal responsibility can safeguard your valuables from theft.

# Senior Lead Officer Charles Castaneda (12SL15)

## Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents

- Officers Escobar #40031 and Ponce #45543 responded to a roommate dispute that escalated to the brandishing of a knife. Officers met with the Victim who led Officers to the Suspect (roommate) inside of the shared residence. Officers detained the Suspect who was Private Person Arrested for a misdemeanor brandishing. Officers resolved the incident without force and prior to the situation escalating to violence. Officers are to be commended for their swift response, investigative skills and reference for the lives of all parties involved.

## Neighborhood Events

- 77<sup>th</sup> Town Hall February 12<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm at Crenshaw Christian Center
- Voices Neighborhood Council Meeting February 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm at Vermont Square Library

## Crime Tips

- Auto related crimes: Kia, Hyundai, Hondas, Chevy- Silverado/ Tahoe

The message is simple:

- **Lock IT:** Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended and always lock your valuables in your trunk.
- **Hide It:** If you don't have a trunk, hide valuables under the seats, in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle.
- **Keep It:** Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard personal property and to prevent becoming a victim.

## Street Robberies

- When walking around your neighborhood, be aware of your surroundings.
- When possible, walk with a friend or family member
- Never have earbuds too loud to hear what's going on around you
- Consider leaving jewelry or valuables at home.

# Senior Lead Officer Andre Dixon (12SL31)

## Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents

- On /16/2023 Officer Aguilar # 43073 and Officer Salguero # 425558 were working 77th GED. Officers were conducting crime suppression in the area of Crenshaw and Slauson. Officers observed a vehicle that had several violations. Officers conducted a traffic stop on that vehicle. Both Officers recognized both occupants as documented Rollin 60's. Officer Aguilar observed the passenger make a furtive movement towards the center consol. Officers order both Driver and Passenger to exit the vehicle. In plain sight Officers observed narco and also notice the original integrity of vehicle had been tampered with by the passenger. Based on the GED training and expertise dealing with gang members. The GED officers conducted a through search of the vehicle. Officers also recovered a firearm 9mm, blue steel fully loaded. The suspect was then taken into custody as well as the firearm was recovered. Good Job by the Officers paying close attention to detail. Thanks to these Officers removing another weapon off the street of Los Angeles.

## Neighborhood Events:

- February 3rd 59Th Street Block Club
  - Grace United Methodist Church (4112 W. Slauson Ave 10 am)
- February 10th Park Mesa NHC meeting 10-1
- **February 12Th Town Hall meeting 5pm-7pm**
  - Crenshaw Christian Center 7901 S. Vermont

## Crime Tips

- **Safeguard Your Mail**
  - Retrieve your mail as soon as possible from your mailbox, or set up a P.O. box, so sensitive mail cannot be stolen.
  - When possible, mail letters directly at the post office or with your postal worker.
- **Set up Direct Deposits for Benefit Checks**
  - Physical checks can be stolen from mailboxes or easily picked up by someone who enters your home. It's best to have your benefit checks deposited directly into your account.
- **Never Allow an Unsolicited Contractor to Enter Your Home**
  - Keep your doors locked, and do not invite them in. Ask for identification, even if they say it is an emergency.
  - If necessary, call the company to confirm the individual is meant to be there.
  - Call a neighbor or 911 if you sense something is not right.
- **Protect Yourself From Financial Elder Abuse**
  - Maintain control over your finances, and monitor accounts for abnormal withdrawals.
  - Regularly review your will, power of attorney, and property titles.

# Senior Lead Officer Andre Dixon Cont'd (12SL31)-

## Crime Prevention Tips While You're Out and About

### • **Travel Light**

- Carry as few cards as possible in your wallet – that goes for identity cards and credit cards alike. This will save you many headaches if your wallet is lost or stolen, and it helps prevent identity
- Always keep your purse close to your body and never leave it in a shopping cart. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

### • **Engage in Good Cell Phone Habits**

- Carrying a **cell phone** with you is a good idea for many reasons, including getting in touch with loved ones or calling for help during an emergency. Just don't let it distract you from what's going on around you. Thieves target people talking on phones or
- Texting while taking a walk or shopping. Smartphones are frequently stolen right out of people's hands, so keeping it out of sight is best. You can check your texts and play games when you get home!

### **Strangers at your Door:**

- Use caution anytime there is a stranger at your door.
- Be suspicious of unexpected sales calls or deliveries. Ask for identification.
- Be aware of scams that criminals commit to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays.
- Investigate charities before making donations. Ask how the funds will be used.

# Senior Lead Officer Agustin Lopez

(12SL39)

## Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents

On 01/21/24 at approximately 12:50 AM, Officer Lewis and Officer Gasca were conducting extra patrol in the area of Florence and Menlo due to the recent crime trends in the area.

- They were traveling west bound on Florence approaching Menlo, when they observed two males walking on the north side of Florence. As the officers conducted a right turn onto Menlo, they observed the suspect, reach down to the ground and drop a semi-automatic handgun on the sidewalk. The suspect continued walking. Officers detained the suspect and the other male pending a firearm investigation. Officer Gasca walked towards the firearm and recovered it and rendered it safe. Officers recovered a 30 round, .40 caliber magazine from the suspect's left pant pocket. During the investigation officers discovered that the suspect was on parole for ADW. The suspect was arrested for Felon in possession of a firearm.

## Neighborhood Events

- February 12, 2024- at 6:00 PM-Voces Neighborhood Council board meeting at Vermont Square Brach Library, 1201 W 48th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037

## Crime Tips

- Lock It: Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended and always lock your valuables in the trunk.
- Hide It: If you do not have a trunk, hide valuables under the seats, in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle.
- Keep It: Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard personal property and to prevent becoming a victim.

# Senior Lead Officer Gregory Sovick

(12SL45)

## Commendable Officer Incident:

Officers Montague, Ainis, and Pena assigned to 77<sup>th</sup> Division Gang Enforcement detail responded to a call of a reported shooting in progress. The 911 operator was able to hear a gun shot in the background during the call. Upon their arrival at scene, the officers met with the victim of the shooting who was able to give a good description of the suspects and the location of a mechanic shop on Western Ave. where the incident originated. This mechanic shop has been the subject of numerous community member complaints. Officers conducted a follow up to the mechanic shop and observed a suspect holding a firearm. After requesting additional resources and a lengthy investigation, Officers were able to detain several individual and conduct a search of the mechanic shop. The results of this investigation were a blessing to our community. Officers arrested two violent suspects for conduction the

shooting and they arrested an additional suspect for possession of narcotics and a firearm. One sawed-off shotgun, three pistols, over **5 lbs. of Fentanyl**, and over **2 lbs. of methamphetamine** were recovered and removed from our streets.

A huge **thank you** to all involved in removing these violent criminals from our streets and the removal of the deadly narcotics. It is cooperation like this that provides our community with a safer neighborhood for all.

## Neighborhood Events:

- 01/09/24 Voices Neighborhood Council Board meeting
- 01/09/24 Harvard Park School Safety Collaborative meeting
- 01/22/24 Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council meeting

## Crime Tips:

- Don't forget to continue to utilize the MyLA311 App to report/request the needs in our community.
- Use a sensor or timer light in your residence when not home in order to create the appearance that someone is home.
- Please remove or hide any and all valuables in your parked vehicles in order to discourage vehicle break-ins.
- Utilize a steering wheel or ignition lock in order to reduce vehicle thefts.
- When parking in shopping centers attempt to park in the well-lit areas and/or near surveillance cameras.

*Officer Greg Sovick #37886*

*77<sup>th</sup> Street Senior Lead Office*

*37886@lapd.online*

*(213)677-9952*

# Senior Lead Officer Atulaegwu Abanobi

(12SL51)

## Commendable Officer Incident

On January 23, 2024, at approximately 2120 hours, Officers Salguero 42558 and Aguilar 43073, assigned to 77<sup>th</sup> Division Gang Enforcement Detail, were conducting extra patrol in the area of Brynhurst Ave and 71<sup>st</sup> St. This area has a high history of shootings, robberies, homicides, grand theft autos and loud large gang gatherings.

On this day, while Officers were driving by a group of known Florencia 13 gang members, they observed a male discard a handgun. They were able to safely conduct a thorough investigation and take the identified subject into custody without any force.

Thanks to the great work by these officers there is one less illegally possessed gun out there in our streets. The presence of the Officers, and the extra patrol provided, shows the community that we are listening to there complaints and doing something to resolve or minimize the occurrence of these issues.

## Neighborhood Events

- Event: Park Mesa Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting
- Date/Time: Second Saturday of Every month 10am
- Location: 5730 Crenshaw Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90043

## Crime Tips

- **Always be AWARE** of your surroundings especially while traveling on foot or waiting at the bus stops. **Lock and secure vehicles** (Older model vehicles need alarms and clubs for additional security). **If you observe any crime in progress, call the police immediately by dialing 911.**
- **Have a SAFE Black History Month!**

# Senior Lead Officer Ruben Cardenas

(12SL53)

## *Commendable Specialized Units*

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our hard-working Gang Enforcement Detail, our hard working, undermanned, Narcotics Enforcement Detail and Vice Detail. These specialized details work hand and hand with each other on a daily bases to combat gang violence, gang related crime, narcotics related crimes, narcotics violence, prostitution and human trafficking. The Gang Enforcement Detail continues to make great arrest and taking guns off the street. While our Narcotics Enforcement Detail continues shutting down illegal dispensaries and illegal grow houses. Our Vice Detail is tasked with managing and enforcement of one of the most heavily traffic prostitution corridors in the country.

All this is done to improve the overall quality of life for the citizens here at \_\_\_\_\_ 77<sup>th</sup> Division. Thank you all for everything you do on a daily bases. Your hard work and dedication duty does not go unnoticed by me or this community that we serve.

## *Neighborhood Events*

- Town Hall meeting scheduled for **February 12<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the Crenshaw Christian Center, located at 7901 S. Vermont Ave. Hope to see you there.

# Senior Lead Officer Chris McPheeters

(12SL57)

## Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents

I would like to acknowledge 77<sup>th</sup> Senior Lead Officers for their dedication and hard work that is provided each day to our community. We recently listened to the community concerns during the Community Police Advisory Board meeting. The topics mentioned were the problem with no parking on their street due to abandoned vehicles. The 77<sup>th</sup> Senior Lead Officers partnered with the 77<sup>th</sup> Auto Detectives, and Police Tow for a task force of illegally parked vehicles. The task force was a success with over 35 vehicles being impounded and several warnings placed onto other vehicles advising to move or be towed. We will continue to monitor and arrange the next task force. We thank the community for always being supportive and addressing concerns.

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## Neighborhood Events

- The 77<sup>th</sup> Street Area resumed their monthly Community Police Advisory Board meeting our next meeting will be held on, February 8, 2024, at 6PM. We hope that you will be able to attend the meeting in person, there are sometimes difficulties with the zoom, and all are not able to obtain the information provided. Please feel free to contact me at [36176@lapd.online](mailto:36176@lapd.online) or (213) 677-9126
- The 77<sup>th</sup> Senior Lead Officers are going to participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We will be walking with the kids from Loren Miller Elementary School and providing safety tips. This event will take place on, February 2, 2024.

## Crime Tips

- There is still an increase in stolen vehicles (KIA) (Hyundai). Be aware of where you park and always lock and secure your vehicles. It is important to have an audible anti-theft mechanism on your vehicle and if you park in front of your home please install cameras which offer the proper coverage. It is a small price to pay to protect your property and avoid being victimized. Please remember to utilize the 311 APP, download on your phone. It has several requests that can be made from bulky items pickup, homeless encampments, and graffiti removal.
- Please remember the following whenever you are out and about walking:
- **1: Stay visible- wear light or reflective clothing**
- **2: Stop and look before crossing**
- **3: Stay alert and use crosswalks**
- **4: Do not be distracted on cell phones when walking**

# Senior Lead Officer Elva Coats

(12SL67)

## Commendable Officer Commendation

Officers continue to do great work out there. Thank you to all who serve and protect the streets of 77<sup>th</sup> Division day in and day out. As the new year rang in we unfortunately saw several community members fall victims to bad drugs. We saw at least 4 individuals succumb to the use of drugs laced with deadly amounts of Fentanyl. Be safe and say NO TO DRUGS!

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## Community Event

- 77<sup>th</sup> will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at the Crenshaw Christian Center. All are welcome. Please bring all questions as representatives from the City of Los Angeles will be present.

## Crime Tips

- You can download the LA City app MyLA311 to report homeless encampments, illegal dumping, burned out street lights and large item pick-ups.
- Crime Tips
- Robbery Prevention Tips:
- Be aware. Pay attention to those around you.
- Do not walk with cell phones in hand or earphones on.
- Be familiar with the area you are traveling to and from.
- If you are a victim, don't panic, don't resist. Property can be replaced, it's not worth the risk.
- Pay attention to the suspect(s) appearance, direction of travel. The more details the better.
- If it looks suspicious call it in to our non-emergency hotline 1-877-ASK-LAPD
- (1-877-275-5273). If you need immediate police assistance please dial 911.
- It's that time of the year where burglars want your property. Make sure to lock and secure your doors and windows at home. DO NOT leave any valuables in your car or more importantly any loved ones gifts.

# Senior Lead Officer Adaniz Cook (12A69)

## Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents

On January 9, 2024, Gang Enforcement Officers conducting extra patrol in the EWA by 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Avenue observed several Suspects drinking in a vehicle. While conducting their investigation, Officers discovered ammunition, narcotics, and a firearm concealed on two suspects. The suspects were consequently arrested. One suspect, a documented gang member, was arrested for being an ex-con in possession of a firearm, and the second suspect was arrested for being in illegal possession of a concealed firearm. The area is a high crime area for stolen vehicles and Florencia 13 gang activity. Officers are to be commended for their outstanding observations, investigative skills, and knowledge of the area. Their proactive work resulted in the quick apprehension of car theft suspects and removing a loaded firearm from the community.

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## Neighborhood Events

- February 8<sup>th</sup>: In person CPAB meeting in the 77<sup>th</sup> Street Station Community Room starting at 6PM.
- February 12<sup>th</sup>: 77<sup>th</sup> Street Area Senior Lead Officers will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at the Crenshaw Christian Center located at 7901 S. Vermont Ave from 5PM-7PM.
- February 15<sup>th</sup>: Fremont Safety Collaborative Meeting will be held at Fremont High School at 9AM-10AM in the upstairs Library.

## Crime Tips

- Vehicle Thefts and Burglary from Motor Vehicles continue to be an ongoing issue among Kia's and Hyundai's. Remember to Lock it Hide it Keep it.
- **PLEASE SPREAD AWARENESS**
- Familiarize yourself with My LA 311 City Services. You can download the application to your phone or call 311. Services include bulky item removal, graffiti removal, illegal dumping, homeless encampments, and electronic waste.

# Senior Lead Officer Robert Canizales

(12SL73)

## Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents

On January 17, 2024 Officer Lopez #42945, and his partner Officer Lee #43252 were at Manchester Ave and Wilton Pl conducting crime suppression. These Officers are assigned to 77<sup>th</sup> Gang Unit. Officers were monitoring a gas station that is a known Eight Tray Gangster hangout. Upon arrival Officers observed a male standing by a black dodge Durango pumping gas in the vehicle. The male was wearing a black hoodie and a black fanny pack around his torso. The male appeared startled when he looked in the officer's direction. The male tucked the fanny pack under his arm concealing the fanny pack. As Officer's approached the male he immediately sat in the driver's seat of the Dodge Durango. Moments later the male exited the vehicle without the fanny pack. Based on the Officer's training and experience they detained the male pending a contraband investigation. As officers conducted their investigation the male was nervous visibly shaking. Officers Lopez observed the black fanny pack on the driver's seat and picked it up. Officer Lopez described the bag as being heavy and felt an L shape object. Officer Lopez opened the bag and observed a black semi auto firearm with two loaded magazines. Officers safely removed the loaded weapon from the bag without incident. The male was booked at 77<sup>th</sup> Division for possession of a concealed firearm. Officers are to be commended for their teamwork, and investigative skills that resulted in the apprehension of an armed suspect.

## Neighborhood Events

- Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council community meeting is held on every third Monday of the month at 1800 hours. 02-19-24 8475 S Vermont Ave
- 92<sup>nd</sup> Street / Westpark Terrace Block Club meeting 1300 Hours Bimonthly

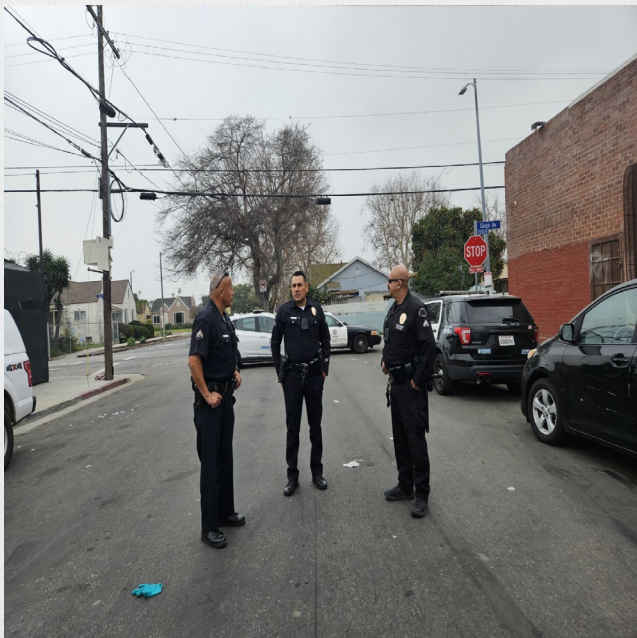
## Crime Tips

Auto related crimes: Kia, Hyundai, Hondas

The message is simple:

- **Lock IT:** Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended and always lock your valuables in your trunk.
- **Hide It:** If you don't have a trunk, hide valuables under the seats, in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle.
- **Keep It:** Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard personal property and to prevent becoming a victim.

# All Smiles





77<sup>TH</sup> STREET



## Town Hall Meeting

*Monday  
February 12, 2024, 5-7 pm*

*Crenshaw Christian Center  
7901 S Vermont, Los Angeles*

### Speakers

LAPD Chief of Police Moore  
LAPD Captain Gonzalez  
City Council District 8  
CIRCLE TEAM Program  
... and more

LAPD Deputy Chief Tingirides  
LAPD Captain Smith  
Department of Transportation  
St. Joseph Center

*We value your input.*

*How can we better our  
Community?*

*We want to answer your questions.*



Refreshments provided by 7-Eleven

