



Co-Chairs: Captain Craig Heredia & Alexa Iles Skarpelos
CPAB Secretary: Angela La Riva

Meeting Notes

January 16, 2024

I. Special Recognition

Captain Heredia presented a special recognition award to Heather Beller. Heather is the LAPD Civilian Supervisor in Hollywood. The LAPD has over 3,500 civilian employees in a variety of administrative, technical, scientific and administrative support functions. These civilian employees work with sworn officers to meet the community's law enforcement and public safety needs. Heather was named employee of the year in 2022 and has worked for LAPD for almost 30 years. She started her career in 1994 at LAPD's Northeast Division Station. She later worked at Central Traffic Division, Van Nuys Division and transferred to Hollywood Division as a Senior Administrative Clerk in 2000. Captain Heredia recognized Heather's years of service and her support of LAPD staff and behind-the-scenes contributions to the mission of LAPD Hollywood Division.

II. Hollywood Station Command Update

Captain Craig Heredia

Email: 31900@lapd.online

Hollywood Division Crime Stats

In the City of Los Angeles overall crime in 2023 was down, with a 17% reduction in homicides and an overall reduction of 3.2% for violent crimes.

Part 1 Crime

Hollywood Division is leading the City in reduction of Part 1 crimes. Part 1 crimes are serious / violent crimes (vs. property crime).

- Homicide, down 23%
- Rape, down 11%
- Shootings: 25 less in 2023 vs. 2022
- Robberies: 112 less in 2023 vs. 2022

Retail Theft & Reporting Crimes

Hollywood Division has received funding for an overtime budget targeting organized retail theft. LAPD Hollywood will be deploying resources to areas where there are large retail losses. The Commercial Crimes Division is working with other law enforcement partners to combat retail theft offenders. Detectives are encouraging businesses to upgrade to forensic grade security cameras. Many businesses are frustrated with laws that have decriminalized crime, however, citizens should continue to report crimes. Many crimes can now be reported online:

<https://www.lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report/>

Traffic Fatalities

And, for the first time in almost a decade, there were more deaths in the City of Los Angeles as a result of traffic crashes than homicides this past year. Many of those deaths were the result of irresponsible or criminal acts (DUI, excessive speed, hit and run, etc.).

Hollywood Division Personnel Announcements

Ralph Sanchez, SLO for Hollywood Hills Area 6A31, will retire on February 29, 2024.

Gary Kukaua, D3 Robbery Detective also recently retired.

III. Government Officials Updates

The following representatives in attendance gave quick updates:

Anais Gonzalez, Field Representative for CD13

Hollywood Area

Email: anais.gonzalez@lacity.org

Karla Martinez, Field Representative for CD13

East Hollywood, Los Feliz, Greater Wilshire, Larchmont Village & Windsor Square

Email: karla.g.martinez@lacity.org

CD13 Field Representatives provided the following updates.

- The area of Fernwood and DeLongpre will be receiving sanitation visits again in 1 – 2 weeks.
- The fence at Western and Barton was not put up by CD13. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is working with individuals there to get them into housing.
- The encampment around Lexington and Las Palmas will receive regular cleaning, scheduled with LA Sanitation Dept. (dates TBD).
- LA Sanitation will provide cleaning at the encampment at Yucca and Argyle on Mondays.
- January 9, 2024 CD13 18 people were housed with the support of the Mayor's "Inside Safe" program.
- All shelters in Cd13 are at 100% capacity.
- LAHSA will conduct the LA Homeless Count on January 25, 2024.
- Citizens have reported concerns regarding the lighting at Lemon Grove Park. CD13 is working with The LA Bureau of Street Lighting to install more lights.

IV. In the Spotlight: Encampment Fires

LAFD Brett Willis, Battalion Chief gave an update.

Battalion 5 includes 7 fire stations.

They are on a basic platoon schedule and they respond to multiple types of incidents (emergency medical calls, homeless related fires, residential fires, commercial fires and vacant structure fires).

We discussed the series of recent encampment fires on Franklin Avenue near Cahuenga Blvd.

Recent reported fires have been in consistent areas at repeat addresses. Arson is difficult to determine and requires tangible evidence, witnesses, video and often these aren't present during these types of fires. LAFD staffs full-time arson investigators who work with LAPD to investigate suspected arson incidents.

Q: How does LAFD define arson?

A: Arson is any fire that is not started naturally. Incendiary versus accidental is how they differentiate. Arson section covers all reports for all fires. The investigation determines if it was intentional and malicious or not. They look for patterns and document all findings.

PC 452: A person is guilty of arson when he or she willfully and maliciously sets fire to or burns or causes to be burned or who aids, counsels, or procures the burning of any structure, forestland or property.

Q: If someone throws a lit cigarette out the window into a trash receptacle and it catches fire, is that an accident or arson?

A: That is described as a poor decision that turned into an accidental fire. If it was intentionally lit then it's a different story. An example of a type of accidental fire would be a propane cooking fire where an individual is trying to cook food but accidentally sets their tent on fire. An example of an intentional fire is someone who is disgruntled and sets his or her neighbor's house or property ablaze. In some instances, an intentional fire appears obvious but if there are no witnesses or evidence it can't be prosecuted in a court of law. It's very difficult to distinguish between a fire set negligently or criminally. Most of the fires LAFD responds to are recorded as "undetermined" because there usually isn't enough evidence to move an investigation forward.

Q: How does LAFD disseminate information regarding ongoing investigations? Where can the community get access to the results of potential arson investigations?

A: Public Records Request can be made on all fire investigations.
<https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/cupa/public-records>

Final Note: LAFD Assistant Chief, Dean Zipperman retired in January 2024. His successor has not been named.

V. CPAB Committee Updates

SLO Paul Jordan

Senior Lead Officer Hollywood Area 6A63
Email: 32285@lapd.online

SLO Jordan introduced the video of the LAPD Hollywood Holiday Toy Giveaway activities. Multiple business owners and the Hollywood Division SLO's sponsored the event. The group visited various parts of Hollywood including the Walk of Fame, Lemon Grove Park and the Hollywood Recreation Center. Community member Ethan Higuera filmed the event and created a video.

To view and share the video use these links in your browser:
<https://youtu.be/NTe4ppILTpg?si=Npk2aK5jOXbXBMXU>
https://www.instagram.com/reel/C1au_FxMixv/?igsh=NzBmMjdhZWRIYQ==

VI. Upcoming Events & Announcements

Primary Election Debates for Council District 4 (CD4)

January 17th and January 25th

LAPD Hollywood Division - Citizens Academy

Contact Officer Gabriel Ruiz
Email: 39066@lapd.online

The Academy runs from March 12th – May 21st

The training which takes place each week on Tuesday from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location is the Hollywood Community Room

There will be presentations from a variety of LAPD specialized units (LAPD K-9, Air Support, Mental Evaluation Unit, Detectives, Patrol, 911 Operations and more).

Upcoming Hollywood Street Closures

The Academy Awards are scheduled for Sunday, March 10, 2024 at the Dolby Theatre.

There will be the usual street closures for this event.

For information about these or any closures, visit this website:

<https://hollywoodpartnership.com/alerts>

2024 Police Unity Tour, Washington DC

Brian Oliver and Paul Jordan will participate in this year's Police Unity Tour. It is a 300-mile ride that takes place over three days in memory of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

This memorial ride begins on May 9, 2024 and ends May 12th at the National Law Enforcement Memorial & Museum in Washington, DC.

The primary purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness about the police officers that have died in the line of duty. Their motto is: "We Ride For Those Who Have Died." It is also to raise money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Since its inception in 1997, the Police Unity Tour has raised over \$10 million. Each rider must raise a minimum of \$2,500 to participate. Contact SLO Oliver and SLO Jordan for information on how to donate to their ride.

Contact: SLO Brian Oliver

Email: 37349@lapd.online

Contact: SLO Paul Jordan

Email: 32285@lapd.online

Next CPAB Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024 (5pm)

Hollywood Community Room