



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO CHANGE

# AREA 35 UPDATE

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# November 2024 Update

by SLO Deon Joseph



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL



The holiday season is officially here. This is the time of year we give thanks for all the important things in our lives. A time for sharing with loved ones and good

will. I hope this November is amazing for you.

## ANGELS OF THE MONTH



**I would like to thank Urban Alchemy for their incredible work. I reached out to them to help two individuals in need of housing, and they responded promptly. Keep up the great work. Thank you for your service to the community**

## INMEMORIUM



Skid Row lost two family members back-to-back. I want to acknowledge them

### MS. TINA



Ms. Tina has been a community member of Skid Row for a long time. She was considered a mother and auntie to many people in area. I thank her for her kind greetings when she saw me. Upon seeing her memorial, it was clear how loved she was by the community. May she rest in peace and to those affected by her loss, I pray comfort to you.



## WENDELL BLASSINGAME



In mid-October, we lost a Skid Row titan and champion for people experiencing homelessness. I met Wendell Blasingame in 2005. Wendell challenged me on that fateful day. He expressed a desire for Skid Row to be respected as real community. He asked me to help him with that. The number one rule as a cop is to never make promises that you cannot keep. But I was so inspired by this man, that I promised to give it my best shot. He wasn't afraid to reach across lines many wouldn't cross to make the community he loved better. I loved his partnership in the positive things that happened in the community.

Wendell really loved Skid Row and its people. Many positive changes we saw from 2006 to 2011 was inspired by hm challenging us all to do more. He helped house people and find them jobs. His dedication earned him the title in our station as the **"Governor of Skid Row."** He wore his faith on his sleeve, and let it drive him to give hope to many over two decades.

My fondest memories was back when Wendell and Ms. Barbara

Aduwa would sit and talk with me at length about their vision for the area. Wendell made me a believer in Skid Row. His passion became mine along with so many others he inspired.

He represented Skid Row proudly on the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

As I came to visit him in the hospital, I remember each time him always saying "tell them I'll be back in the park soon. We have more work to do."

Sadly, that did not happen, but his spirit will still inspire more great works.

Wendell's absence will leave a hole in the hearts of many he looked out for. I for one will miss his smile, his words of encouragement and dedication to a better quality of life and safety for wonderful people of Skid Row who deserve it. Wendell: I'm sure you are being told "Well done my good and faithful servant."

You left an incredible footprint in the DTLA area and beyond. We will miss you, Sir.

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

***"It is not how many times you fall. It's how many times you get up you get up"*** - Wendell Blasingame.



## TO THE NEW LADIES OF SKID ROW



We have a lot of new faces in Skid Row as of late many of them women. No matter your reason for being here, I want you to know that your safety is important. We have had an increase in sexual assaults this year. For the new arrivals, my hope is that you find shelter as soon as possible. These streets can be cruel.

I want you to know that if you are sexually assaulted by anyone out there, it is NEVER your fault. It doesn't matter if you were homeless, using drugs or engaged in sex work, if anyone has committed a sexual act against your will or without your consent, you will not be judged by us, no matter what some may tell you to dissuade you from the help you need. We are here to serve you like anyone else in the city.

Please be careful sharing narcotics, many sexual assaults occur when a victim is provided one thing, but it is laced with something that incapacitates you.

Avoid entering tents of people you don't know well or trust. The same goes for hotels.

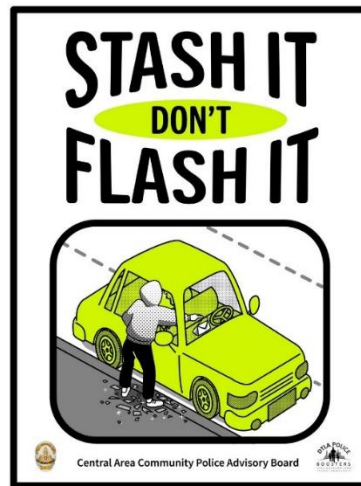
If you can, avoid sleeping on public sidewalks please. Get to a shelter.

Historically, women have made up 40% of the Skid Row population. 2/3 of them have been a victim of sexual assault.

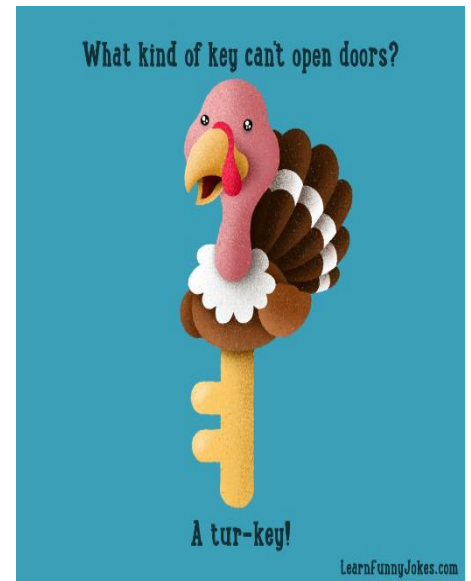
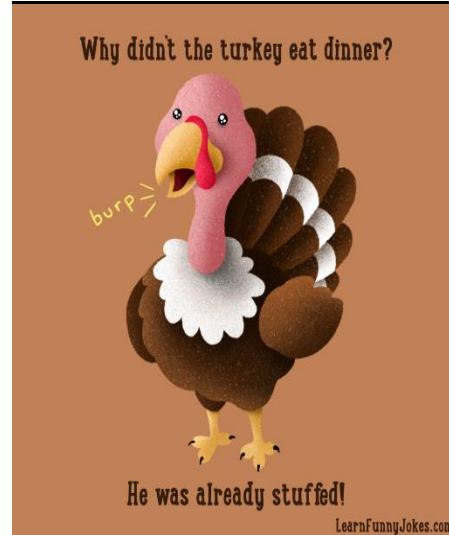
My hope is that you are never a victim, but if it happens, when it is safe to do so, please call 911, and cooperate with responding officers so we can get justice for you.

### REMEMBER ALL!!!

Especially on Spring, Main and LA Street



### COP JOKES OF THE MONTH



### UPCOMING EVENTS

During the holiday season, there will be many events in the Skid Row area just days before thanksgiving. Expect 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> st to be closed between wall and San Pedro soon for those events. Looking forward to seeing you there. One of my favorite times of year.



### LA MISSION THANKGIVING EVENT

11/27/24 10am to 4pm

5<sup>th</sup> Street closed between Wall and San Pedro.

### MIDNIGHT MISSION EVENT

11/28/24 10am, to 12:30am.

**56.08 E 1 LAMC/NO**  
**MERCHANDICE OR ITEMS**  
**ON THE STREET**



To my Toy Town vendors. Do not store your merchandise, tables, tents, cones or other items in the street. We do NOT want to start issuing citations, but if there is no compliance, we will have no choice. We understand you are working hard and trying to feed your families, but there must be order.

Especially during the holiday shopping season.

Por Favor, no puede la merchandia, mesas, conos, o carpas en la calle.