

**Devonshire Area
Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting Via Zoom
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 5 PM**

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Visitors:

VTD Sgt. Eric Swihart

VTD Officer Kerry Suprenant, CTSU Officer for Devonshire Division filling in for Officer Dan Rizzo

Guest Speaker: Chief Donald Graham, Chief of Police, Los Angeles Unified School District (LASPD)

- Retired from LAPD on February 10, 2026, after 30 years of service, and sworn in as Chief of Police of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) on February 18, 2026
- LAUSD is the second largest school district, by student capacity, in the nation with:
 - Approximately 380,000 K-12 students
 - With an additional nearly 100,000 additional students in early development or adult education programs
 - More than 700 schools and 1,300 sites
 - Covers approximately 711 sq. miles
- LA School Police is the largest dedicated school police department in the United States
Staffing includes:
 - 270 sworn officers
 - 65 uniformed School Safety Officers
 - Approximately 40 civilian professional support staff
 - Almost 85% of the dept. is deployed Monday thru Friday, from 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM
- The purpose of the department is not to police the children at school but to serve as the “guardians of the gate,” i.e., keep the educational environment safe from outside influences
 - LASPD handles felony-level crime, weapons and contraband
 - School administration handles minor discipline issues such as fights, truancy, minor vandalism are handled through restorative justice
- The LASPD is divided into four divisions, corresponding to the districts’ four regions of the district
Chief Graham is making changes and adding a new Central Division to improve police response time and help meet the district’s goal of a seven-minute response
- Another major change is reconstituting the overnight shift, 11 PM to 6 AM as a pilot program for Wednesday through Saturday nights starting in the Fall semester
Overnight coverage ended in 2020 after the Board of Education cut 33% of the department’s staffing
After hours vandalism and theft (copper wire, piping, etc.) has cost the district about \$14 million in the 2025 -2026 school year and \$13.6 million the prior year, not including technology/electronic replacement costs
- LASPD will increase traffic enforcement around campuses next semester as part of a “safe passages” strategy with support from the district’s Principals Advisory Council
- Work with school principals on applying neighborhood watch concepts around campuses and encourage schools to invite neighbors to campus events, school governance councils and performances

- During the 157 days in office as Chief of LASPD, many people who work for the schools such as principals, teachers, bus drivers, plant managers all say how much they love the LASPD Officers and how much they are desperate to have them back on campus
This decision was made by the LAUSD Board but the Independent Charter Schools that contract directly for LASPD presence show significant lower calls for service and crime compared with other LAUSD campuses
- Important to be informed/aware of what is going on in the school district.
The School Board meets every other Tuesday, and their meetings can be viewed on their website
- Currently, LA county Office of Education (LACOE) has assigned a financial observer to LAUSD due to budget concerns
The School District has 45 days to address the issues, or observer's role converts to an advisory one with veto authority over district financial decisions
LACOE cannot take over district governance but can control financial policy by statute
- Chief Graham is very proud to lead the finest school police department in the country

Q&A:

- Traffic issues around the schools in the Porter Ranch area is getting worse every year
 - Every school is supposed to have a Valet program and a traffic plan, but what is lacking is a signage of what the plan is to the parents and the surrounding community
 - There is a Signage Pilot LASPD is working on -- the department will pilot improved traffic plan signage at one school with a comparable school as control to test whether signage reduces traffic problems such as illegal parking and double parking near bus zones
 - Double parking enforcement – the department is seeking approval from its Office of General Counsel to resume camera-based documentation of double-parked vehicles for citation purposes
- What if parents took photos/videos of the illegally/double parked vehicles and submit them (See Something, Say Something) –
 - Chief Graham thanked him for the suggestion and will add that to his list when presenting to the General Counsel
- What is minor vs contraband possession at the schools?
 - Mostly at the high school level, the school administration usually handles things such as vape pens, cigarettes and lighters and police handle harder drugs and other contraband
- Has there been an increase in calls of service since the school board defunded LASPD?
 - Chief Graham did not have the numbers since 2020 but noted that the staffing dropped from 390 to 270 sworn officers over that period.
 - Overdoses are currently not viewed as a major issue – a more consistent/frequent call type is hoax bomb threats routed through VPNs, which are happening roughly 2 per week.
 - LASPD is forming a task force with the FBI cybercrime specialists to help trace these threats
- How long is Chief's contract length with LASPD?
 - Chief Graham's contract with LASPD is 3 years with an option
- It was suggested adding school police dispatch signage around the perimeter of the campus and not just by the main entrance
 - Chief Graham thanked the suggestion
The Chief also shared the LASAR APP – is a tool that allows students, families and the community to report concerns directly to the school police watch commander (with an option to report anonymously) via an APP

State of Devonshire: Captain Ray Lucas

- Captain Lucas thanked Chief Graham

- Overall crime is down in Devonshire by approximately 20.5% YTD
- One gang-related homicide occurred in Parthenia Park since the last meeting – the suspect was quickly taken into custody with assistance from Devonshire gang officers and Valley Bureau Robbery Homicide
- Violent and property crimes are both down significantly year over year except BTFMV and Theft Senior Leads are stressing Lock It Hide It Keep it and by public awareness messaging
- Two Drone-as-a-First Responder (DFR) docking stations were installed at Devonshire just before the 4th of July and are fully operational
Drone footage automatically uploads to the department's Axxon/evidence.com system for officer and report-writing use
- The department is ending its Block Wise/Zen City community sentiment contract survey contract A similar survey is being pushed out via the Senior Lead Officers gathering community input on top concerns and perceptions of safety
- The Shepherd of the Church 250th anniversary event was a large successful community event supported by volunteers and senior lead officers

Q&A:

- All City Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) on the Flock system have been halted
 - Waiting for new contract as a replacement
 - CD 12's ALPR are not affected as they are on a different unaffected system
- In response to community concerns whether the cameras track movement beyond reading license plates
 - the cameras are intended for crime-reduction purposes by identifying stolen vehicles and helping locate suspect vehicles in active investigations
 - The recent Police Commission discussion and an Inspector General's report on the ALPR program can be found online
- Will the results of the new Community Sentiment Survey results be published?
 - Not certain at this point, but Captain Lucas will be happy to discuss at the meeting
- Any firework citations over the 4th of July?
 - No citations were issued
 - Once the drones arrived following a call of service, the crowd seems to have dispersed
- One member noted that there is a council file (LA City Council File #25-0839) exploring drone use to address chronic illegal fireworks offenders citywide
 - Devonshire's DFR program tested this approach around July 4 and continues to develop this strategy

Senior Lead Officers Reports w/Q&A

- Homeless and Special Events Coordinator – SLO Sean Taylor
Both SLO Taylor and SLO Yu are the division's CARE Court coordinators
CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Act) is a new less-restrictive civil court alternative to the criminal justice system for individuals with schizophrenia or other qualifying mental illness, allowing law enforcement or family members to petition for a court-ordered plan for treatment and housing
- Basic Car 17A23 -- SLO Phillip Yu
Violent and Property crime is down over 20% YTD
SARA project remains open near the Chatsworth Train Station, supporting focused enforcement
Senior Lead Officers and Patrol Officers have made a number of good arrests in that area
- Basic Car 17A35 – SLO John Parker
Residential burglaries are down over 66% YTD
Vehicle Burglary/Theft is up about 26.5%

Detective Eastburn of Burglary/Theft table has raised concerns in increase in phone-based “theft by trickery” scams – receiving 1 to 3 reports a week
Scammers are impersonating banks and law enforcement to pressure victims into paying by Zelle or Venmo

Residents are advised to hang up and contact the institution directly to verify any such demand

- Basic Car 17A67 – SLO Sandra Zamora
No Basic Car Meeting in July, but will be sending crime stats at the end of the month
Cleanup efforts are scheduled behind Vanalden Park and on Bayard St., (south of Nordhoff)
- Basic Car 17A81 – SLO Anthony Sigston
Crime is down by 15%, thefts are down by nearly 1%
Continuing with outreach and enforcement
Upcoming operation will assist in housing 20 homeless individuals
Basic Car Meeting with SLO Yu of 17A23 is planned for Tuesday, July 21 at 6 PM at the Vineyards at Porter Ranch
Currently working on National Night Out, Aug. 4
- Basic Car 17A95 – interim Senior Lead Officer Antonio Villegas
Slight increase in Theft from motor vehicle and vehicle theft
Ongoing encampments clean up coordination with CD 12
Residents can call 311 or Officer Villegas to report large bulky trash items
- Basic Car 17A49
The heated swimming pool at Petit Park is now open
- Community Relations Office – Sgt. Juan Guzman
 - Thanked VCP and the Senior Lead Officers for a safe July 4 event
 - Bingo Night at the LAPD Devonshire PALS Center on August 28
 - PALS fundraising Golf Tournament on September 14 in Moorpark
 - On August 1, PALS will be hosting its first official soccer tournament with 8 teams participating from across Los Angeles
 - Regarding the recent Parthenia Park homicide, gang officers reported the arrestee was a recruiter for the Bryant Street gang and noted that the local juveniles are increasingly declining to join the gang thanks to all the hard work by the Community Relations and Senior Lead Officers

Q&A:

- Is LAPD Baseball Team’s “Just Say No” program still active?
Yes, it is. The individual schools have to make a request for them to come

Updates from Valley Traffic Division – CTSU Officer Kerry Suprenant and VTD Sgt. Eric Swihart

- A fatal traffic collision occurred at Reseda and Lassen – witnesses indicated that the at-fault driver ran a red light and was speeding
No impairment was found to be involved
- Traffic Citations in Devonshire are up significantly from last year
VTD citations rose from 75 (2025) to 201 (2026)
Patrol citations rose from 53 (2025) to 105 (2026)
This reflects increased enforcement near intersections
- VTD has lost another enforcement car (E-car) team, reducing dedicated traffic enforcement capacity in the Devonshire Area
- 7 fatalities in 2026 in Devonshire

C-PAB Reports/Updates

- Community improvements in Devonshire Area are visibly different compared with other Division

- The community can raise their concerns of staffing constraints to their City Council (such as loss of one VTD E-car for Devonshire)
- Appreciation for ongoing enforcement and cleanup efforts
- Please sign up for the outreach table at National Night Out
- Future guest speaker suggestions welcome

Next Meeting: August 19, 2026, at 5PM

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM

Upcoming Meetings/Events

7/21	Basic Car 17A23 and 17A81 July Meeting 6 PM
8/1	First Soccer Tournament at PALS Center
8/4	National Night Out @Northridge Recreation Center
8/28	Bingo Night, LAPD Devonshire PALS Center
9/14	PALS Golf Tournament, fundraiser