

**Devonshire Area  
Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: Lt. Joe Dunster, Metropolitan Division, Officer in Charge of B Platoon --

B Platoon has been working burglary crew investigations in the Valley

Topic: Significant Arrests and Use of Technology

- Metropolitan Division has several platoons such as SWAT, K-9, Mounted Division and 2 tactical platoons that covers various assignments such as military protection for the President, crowd control and crime suppression
- From about August 2024 when burglaries started to spike, the Counterterrorism Special Operations Bureau (where B-Platoon is) was contacted to come up with a solution and take the burglary suspects into custody
- Traditional model for B- Platoon was to saturate an area with 20 to 30 officers and enhance enforcement to stop a specific crime
- To bring a burglar or a burglary crew into custody, unless they come across the crime in action, the officers are engaged in a prolonged, complex investigation
- Currently the team consists of 52 officers and work both investigation, suppression/enforcement
- B-Platoon identifies which cases are committed by a burglary crew by studying reports sent in by Divisional Burglary Detectives
- Once identified, the work done by B-Platoon involves:
  - Investigation – Work Ups, Follow Ups
  - Surveillance – Documentation
  - Arrest
  - After Action – Roll back warrants, Follow up/collaboration with other divisions
  - Filing
- Lt. Dunster went over 3 case studies and explained how extensive the investigations were, what was involved in each case and what kind of surveillance methods and technology were used
- It takes thousands of hours of investigations, works ups, identifying suspects, surveillance, etc.
- On average, the B-Platoon has made an arrest of 1 burglary crew per month since they started working Burglary Crew Investigations
- Each burglary crew is responsible for anywhere between 5 to 30 burglaries
- The B-Platoon works with divisional detectives, including commercial crimes, to file a case and proceed with it
- ALPR cameras which were placed by CD 12 have been used in solving these crimes
- B-Platoon has always been a specialized unit and worked the tactical side but did not have an investigative arm
- With the after action and follow-up investigations, the Platoon has now built a strong investigative side to their unit
- Every burglary B-Platoon has investigated has been taken into custody
- Current DA is more aggressive and is opening up avenues of enhancement which is helpful for filings

Captain Burns: State of Devonshire and other current issues/topics

- Captain Burns thanked Lt. Dunster for his presentation and the work of his platoon does
- Without Lt. Dunster and his team, these burglary crews will still be going around victimizing the residents
- ALPR cameras have been helping with the investigation

It takes hours to go through all the images that pop up in the cameras

#### SLO Reports:

- 17A67 – Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora  
A Total of 40 crimes in A67 during the period of 4/20 to 5/17  
There was a spike in GTA with 14 vehicles being stolen – heaviest hit area was south of Parthenia St., between Reseda Blvd and Tampa Ave.  
Don't leave keys or key fobs in the car and lock doors  
Report the stolen car right away – the driver may think he is being pulled over for stealing the vehicle and may put the officer's life in danger
- 17A81 – Interim Senior Lead, Officer James Black  
GTAs and BTFV around the Northridge Fashion Mall have dropped since requested extra patrol  
Encampment at Shirely/Plummer has been cleaned up – some individuals have been cited with LAMC 41.18 violation  
Working with Sanitation and continuing to offer individuals services
- 17A95 – interim Senior Lead Officer Phillip Yu  
Numbers are looking good, but still seeing burglaries and BTFV  
Encampments have moved into the County wash and onto AmTrak and Metrolink property as LAPD enforces LAMC 41.18  
Checking areas for copper wire thefts
- Homelessness/Special Events Coordinator – Senior Lead Officer Sean Taylor  
Copper wire theft – copper wires can be identified, but thieves are burning off the ID  
There is a Heavy metal task force – made 250 arrests last year  
If you see anyone with copper wire, contact the Senior Leads immediately with the location and photo without putting yourself in danger  
Do not leave cash in the car especially after going to the bank – 2 cases with significant amount of cash left in the car was stolen this past month  
Prop 36 – 2 prior convictions for shop lifting or hard drug possession are now getting charges filed by the current DA
- Senior Lead Office Supervisor, Sgt. Torres  
Residential burglars are now setting up cameras around the house to study the family's routine  
Crime increases during the summer in Devonshire, so please be vigilant  
Busy with events this Memorial weekend – St. John Eudes Carnival and Greek Festival, Graduation  
Next big event is 4<sup>th</sup> of July which draws a lot of people to the area  
If you hear of any community events, please contact Officer Zamora so it can go on the Master Calendar

#### C-PAB Updates:

- Basic Car 17A23 and 17A81 via Zoom
- OVB Volunteer Appreciation Day
- National Night Out

#### Government Representatives:

- David Bright, West Valley Rep for Mayor Bass with Public Safety updates of the Mayor's Budget  
Mayor Bass is a big proponent of public safety and emergency management  
She is trying to keep all sworn officer positions fully funded and preserved, funding recruitment classes for 40 per class and fully funding the 691 dispatchers  
Budget is with the City Council and is not yet finalized

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next Meeting: June 18, 2025@7PM