



**C-PAB Meeting Minutes March 20, 2024**  
**Called to order at 1:00 PM**

**Welcome Betty Ley**

**Pledge of Allegiance by Bonney Klabunde**

Betty noted that along with the agenda, she included the February minutes.

**February Meeting Minutes Motion to Accept: Norma Wenkalman Motioned by 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Wenkalman. Minutes approved.**

Betty introduced the Captain's Report/Mission Update

**Captain III James Townsend** Provide a crime update for the last 3 weeks:

- Violent crimes – 2 homicides this year so far
  - Doing well compared to 2023, in which Mission had 7 homicides and in 2002, there were 9.
- Hope to keep the #'s low for this year. The division has a comprehensive gang unit, which are doing amazing things in regards to community engagement and addressing the gang problem.
- Crime Stats:
  - [redacted] assaults are down by 6.8%,
  - Victims hit (related to our homicides), had 13 people hit by shots fired compared to last year.
  - There is a bit of a robbery problem – connection with homelessness and individuals who believe they can do whatever they want based on the current laws/procedures, confrontations with security or loss prevention.
  - Trend in crime – For any of the business owners in the area, there have been burglaries where the suspects are focusing between the hours of 2:30am – 3:00am, parking along the side of business, and breaking front windows, going in and taking as much as they can. They are typically taking pharmaceuticals, which they can sell quickly on the streets.
- One of the neighboring divisions got an arrest with a couple suspects, which we hope will deter some of the crime.
- In the area of 8704 S. (N. Sepulveda) a pharmacy was hit twice (March 4<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>).
- Vehicle Theft – previously the focus has been on Honda Accords' and Honda Civics' for GTAs, now the focus is on Camaros' (used for street racing/street car shows)
  - Keep vehicles in garages or gated driveways.
- Chainsaw Incident - March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Officer Involved Shooting Incident – March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Traffic Incidents Report - 2 pedestrians have been killed this year.
  - 1 pedestrian – Roscoe (January 19<sup>th</sup>)
  - 1 pedestrian – Arleta (January 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Valley Traffic Div. conducted **Safety Taskforce “Pedestrians”** – 33 citations (January 11<sup>th</sup>).
- ***Be cautious. Be aware of your surroundings.***
- Hot Interaction in regards to Traffic Collisions – Foothill/Hubbard
- Conducted **DUI Taskforce “Checkpoints”** - Rinaldi/Laurel Cyn (beginning of February), resulting in 13 DUI arrests.

**Captain I Lisa Ruvalcaba** Provided an update on the 2 incidents:

- Chainsaw Incident – Credit given to the future Capitan, Lt. Sammy Issa, who established the role of incident commander that day.
- Officer Involved Shooting Incident – A phone call was received last weekend regarding a male suspect (homeless) that was suffering from mental illness, who parents lived at an apartment complex near Foothill Blvd.
  - There is no public threat as this is an ongoing family/personal issue.
  - The suspect broke in to his parents’ home, where used to live and assaulted his mother with a stick.
  - Parents contacted the police – willing to seek criminal charges.
  - SWAT was dispatched as a result of the male suspect barricading himself inside the apartment. The suspect armed himself with several types of weapons, a threat against the officers.
  - SWAT tried to negotiate with the suspect, but it didn’t work. Suspect came out of the apartment with a type of weapon and using a skateboard as a shield. SWAT used multiple rounds of less-lethal (gas/oc), but it didn’t work. The incident results in an officer involved shooting. The suspect is still alive.
- **Special Location** – anytime there is a call for service that comes from a specific address, even neighboring addressees, the responding units will know of prior incidents and can handle the situation accordingly. Minimum of 2 units with a supervisor will respond to these types of calls.

### **SLO’s Reports:**

#### **SLO Joseph Carter Basic Car 19A1**

Provided an update on the overall crime in Sylmar:

- Violent crime increased by 13%.
- Property crime increased by 20%.
- Significant increase in GTAs, especially for trucks and Tahoes’.
- Traffic Officers have made an arrest of a specific individual who has been removing VIN #'s from the doors and dashboards of the stolen vehicles. The individual was arrested in February, but did not show up in court. He had a warrant. Few days ago, the individual was spotted and arrested for removing the VIN# of a stolen Tahoe.
- Investigated an individual who has been stealing generators and solar panels from the studios (Corner of Sylmar) - able to work with the business owners and make an arrest.
- The Narcotics Unit and AFT conducted search warrants in a couple locations in Sylmar and Mission Hills and made an arrest of an individual who has been selling guns for the past year. Also recovered a few pounds of methamphetamines.
- Working with the council office regarding the homelessness situation and getting people housed in the RVs and impounding vacant RVs.

#### **SLO Keith Crawford 19A7**

Provided an update on the overall crime in Sylmar (Eastside):

- Property crime increased by 34%.
- Violent crime increased by 26%.
- Burglaries, Thefts, GTAs increased by 72%.
- Recently arrested a young female and cleared about 4-5 felonies. She was a car thief. Held a candid conversation with the female during her interview and she was straightforward.
- Last week there was a chase of a prolific car thief, career criminal stealing cars.
- Continue to collaborate and communicate with the Gang Unit so that they can make a difference.

- Continue to pursue community outreach efforts.

**SLO Phil Ruiz 19A43**

Provided an update on overall crime in Mission Hills:

- Overall crime decreased 21%.
- Property Crime/thefts continues to be an issue. Continuing to work with the businesses in the area (Target, Vons, Ulta, Ross).
- 7-Eleven (Chatsworth/Sepulveda) – up take in beer runs and theft of food items
- Continuing to meet with business owners to develop strategies.
- Uptake in aggravated assaults. Last year there was 9, this year there are 14. Contacted and arrested an individual who is responsible for at least 4 crime reports.

**SLO Brady Cuellar Basic Car 19A61**

Provided an update on overall crime in North Hills:

- Violent crime increased by 8%.
- Property crime increased by 13%.
- Working to solve some of the issues north of Roscoe/south of [REDACTED] where a lot of the property crimes are coming out from.
- Conducting cleanups and working closely with the homeless coordinator Officer Ryan Ryder to coordinator and identify certain areas.
- In regards to crime, some of it stems from the encampments that have been set up.
- Investigating the correlations between the locations of encampments and crime.
- Vehicle Burglaries decreased by 11%. Auto thefts continue to be an issue.

**SLO Sean Smith Basic Car 19A75**

Provided an update:

- Crime increased by 12%.
- The areas with the greatest focus are burglaries and thefts.
- CVS and WSS on Woodman are being hit quite a bit. WSS (citywide) have been getting hit. They are trying to implement security strategies to secure their locations better.
- Trying to address the theft issues in the area with extra patrols.
- Working with the council office in regards to the cleanups, specifically Wakefield/[REDACTED].

**SLO Tracy Ware Basic Car 19A79**

Provided an update on overall crime in the Arleta area:

- GTAs increased by 56%.
- Property crime increased by 15%.
- [REDACTED] crime increased by 8.4%
- Woodman Corridor has been a problem. The Arleta pharmacies have also been hit with about a \$10,000 worth of narcotics taken.
- Have been connecting with the other watches and letting them know to do the extra patrol.
- Continuing the cleanups in the area and the outreach efforts.

**SLO Tony Martin Basic Car 19A85**

Provided an update on overall crime in Panorama City:

- Overall crime decreased 21%.
- A slight increase in robberies in the area, mostly in the shopping centers.

- Paying more attention to the Montgomery Wards – made several arrests and given citations. There is a large homeless population there.
- Coordinating efforts with loss prevention from various shopping centers.
- Upcoming Event – “Tip A Cop.” (March 28<sup>th</sup>)

### **Officer Ryan Ryder**

- Upcoming Events
  - Tip A Cop – March 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Carnival – End of April
  - Golf Tournament – May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Currently assigned as the Homeless Coordinator. Homelessness in the # 1 issue plaguing the City of Los Angeles.
- Looking forward to establishing relationship with the team.

### **Guest Speaker:**

#### **Detective LT – “Sammy” Issa**

The detective unit continues to work closely to come up with ideas to combat the issues in the area:

- In regards to GTAs:
  - **Creation of a Window Decal/Sticker** – LAPD Badge (logo) with signage/warnings. The decal signifies that the vehicle has a GPS system in place. This can be a deterrence and useful for older vehicles that are not equipped the technology as newer vehicles are from being stolen.

#### **Gang Unit LT – Mike Ornelas**

Yesterday, a multi-search warrant was served at the Palm Tree Inn involving 2 individuals and arrested one of them. Working to identify the 2<sup>nd</sup> individual.

Another area that is being worked on by the gang/narcotics unit is the growth of marijuana. Homes are being turned into Marijuana grows. Last week a search warrant was served in the Sylmar area where a house was converted into a Marijuana grow.

*As community members, speak to your neighbors, keep an eye out for things that are out of the ordinary around homes in the area.*

Introduced the following officers to provide more information on the work of the gang unit:

#### **Officer Eric [REDACTED] & Officer Will [REDACTED]**

Provided an update on the following:

- Recently conducted 2 parole checks on active gang members for the San Fer 13MX gang.
  - During one of the checks of the home, a suppressor was found. The parolee was arrested for violation of the individual’s parole.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> house check, uncovered ammunition (magazine, but no rifle). Additionally, body armor was found, which is a violation of the individual’s parole. The 2<sup>nd</sup> individual was also arrested.
- Recently conducted probation checks that led to 3 arrests.
- Violent crime in Panorama City has slowed down a bit.

- Continuing to do our crime suppression – making connects with the community, conducting arrests, and identify areas of concern.
- There has been a slight increasing in vandalism and tagging in the area (Panorama City/Arleta).
- *Please contact the officers if you see anything.*

**Government Reps Updates:**

Rocio Hernandez, District Director Council District 7, Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez provided an update:

- Beautification Efforts in the District
  - Through the *Operation Bright Spot Teams*, who focus on the major corridors – working in the North Hills Area (pressure washing the Sepulveda/Nordoff intersection and trash removal/litter pickup at Nordoff/between O’Ryan/Noble.
  - In Sylmar – focusing on the tree wells and litter removal on Foothill/between [redacted]/Roxford. Also doing Roxford/between [redacted]/Warden and Foothill/between [redacted].
  - In Mission Hills (last week) – power washing between Chatsworth/Langdon, and Langdon/Sepulveda.
  - If you know any areas which would benefit from *Operation Bright Spot* within the major corridors, please contact the Council office.
- Homelessness Efforts
  - Through the RV Pilot Project – bring people indoors and providing them with a permanent bed.
  - There have been 79 permanently removed RVs from the streets – most areas have been in Sylmar and housed 128 individuals.
- Sidewalk Repair – program has been launched.
- Last week Councilwoman Rodriguez introduced a motion to provide overtime funding for the Bureau of Streetlighting
- Events:
  - Police Commission Meeting – April 16th, 6pm

[redacted] provided an update:

- Cadet Soccer Cup – May 25<sup>th</sup>
- Free Meals for Senior Program – See flyers
- Actively working to house individuals and remove vehicles that are a hazard to the roadways.

Marcela Quintanilla, Field Deputy for Council District 6, Councilwoman Imelda Padilla provided an update:

- Removed/Towed an RV that was parked between [redacted]/Roscoe - February 29<sup>th</sup>

[redacted], Field Deputy for Council District 6, Councilwoman Imelda Padilla provided an update:

- Field repair at North Hills Community Park will commence on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The park will be closed for about a month. Looking to provide LAPD with overtime funding to do a 24h detail in the area for the safety of the workers and guard materials left overnight.
- Conducted Collaborative Meetings with Lt. Mike Ornelas to address and mitigate gang violence.
- Landscaping Beautification Project in the works (2024/25).
- Donated 20 laptops for LAPD’s Cadet Program.
- Working on funding to install a new playground and repair the field – Tobias Park.
- Tree trimming and brush removal - [redacted].

**Additional Comments:**

Working to secure a *Sex Trafficking – “What you need to Know?” Seminar* – A Saturday morning (10-noon or 10am-11am) in May. Need enough CPAB members to agree that it is something to offer to parents and kids. Would like to have offices attend.

Next meeting April 17, 2024, in-person masks are not required. Need signups for refreshments.

Next QOL Meeting April 3, 2024, 5:30pm “Meet & Greet”

**Announcements:**

None.

Adjourned 2:12 PM.