

Devonshire Area
Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting Via Zoom
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 5 PM

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: CTSU Officer Dan Rizzo, LAPD Valley Traffic Division

- Officer Rizzo is the traffic officer assigned to Devonshire from Valley Traffic Division
Tonight he reported on pedestrian collisions and electric bicycles and electric scooters within Devonshire
- Pedestrian Fatalities
 - There have been three pedestrian fatalities this year to one last year
In all three cases this year, the pedestrians were at fault by either crossing outside of the crosswalk (Freedom to Walk Act) or crossing a sidewalk at a red signal
 - The most recent fatality occurred at Roscoe and Winnetka where the pedestrian was outside of the crosswalk
 - Valley Traffic Division's is conducting outreach and education called Iron Angel for the unhoused population with information as to where to cross the streets and when
- E-Bikes and E-Scooters
Officer Rizzo clarified that the current vehicle code provisions available to LAPD officers primarily address e-scooters and while e-bikes generally follow the laws applicable to bicycles
E-bikes can be on the sidewalk as long as not getting in the way of the pedestrians
 - There have been no fatalities or severe injury incidents involving e-bikes or e-scooters being reported in Devonshire
 - Current laws do not provide officers with the same enforcement options for e-bikes that exist for e-scooters
 - Changes to the law are reportedly being considered to add e-bike verbiage to existing e-scooter regulations or establish new codes for E-Bikes
 - LAPD has distributed an educational pamphlet to schools explaining e-bike rules -- what they have to wear, what's legal and what's illegal. The information has also been distributed to parents
- Valley Bureau's Street Racing Task Force is now back again

Q&A/Comments:

- One member requested the educational pamphlet from Officer Rizzo so it can be shared with the HOA and its residents. There is concern for current young riders operating e-bikes, e-scooters and e-motorcycles without helmets in the gated community and then entering public streets
 - Generally, LAPD cannot enforce vehicle code violations within a private gated community. However, if illegal e-motorcycles leave the communities and operate on public streets, those incidents may be reported to the Senior Lead Officer and they can set up a detail
- With jaywalking no longer an offense, what do you use to cite the individuals on the roadway?
 - Vehicle Code 21954 can still be used when a pedestrian is in the roadway and causing hazard which is technically illegal
- Are there different classes of E-Bikes and can some be on the sidewalk or not?
 - Technically, e-bikes can go on the sidewalk because there is no vehicle code written for it
The laws have not caught up to the demand
However, there is a LAMC code if the rider is causing danger to a people

- If it is an e-scooter, except for entering/exiting a driveway to get to the bike lane, it cannot be on the sidewalk
 - Motorized bicycles that resemble dirt bikes and do not have pedals are not considered bikes
 - Such vehicles are not allowed to operate on public streets and may be stopped and impounded
- Members brought up increased e-motorcycle/e-bike activity around Mason Avenue between Sesnon Blvd. and Rinaldi Street. Information was provided regarding a possible large bike gathering in the area
- How long does it take for the codes to get written or put into law
 - It took a few years for the cell phone usage when texting while driving but heard that law makers are already working on it
 - Captain Lucas shared that because this is a state law issue, it would have to be handled either at the state legislative level to make it a state vehicle code change or either an amendment or a new law, or it could be something that the City Council would take on as well as a municipal code
 - The time to process a new law/code may take time as crafting a new law, going through legal review, recognition and approval
- What do you do when you see kids on E-Motorcycles?
 - A lot of people confuse those with e-bikes and a lot of young people have those e-motorcycles
 - They don't have any pedals which is completely illegal. Those bikes are stopped and impounded
 - Any of the e-motorcycles that look like dirt bikes are not allowed at all anywhere on the street.

State of Devonshire – Captain Lucas:

Captain Lucas thanked Officer Rizzo for addressing the issues raised by C-PAB

Update on two significant incidents that took place in Devonshire Division –

- Nordhoff Street/DeSoto Ave Traffic Fatality and Helicopter Crash
 - At approximately 5:00 p.m., an MTA bus was struck by an SUV at Nordhoff Street and De Soto Avenue where two occupants of the bus were killed
 - Valley Traffic Division and Devonshire units responded
 - A news helicopter subsequently crashed nearby where two occupants of the helicopter and one person on the ground were killed
 - A Valley Bureau emergency "help call" resulted in additional LAPD units responding from throughout the Valley and Units from Devonshire, Valley Traffic, and Topanga assisted at the helicopter crash scene and attempted to rescue and provide aid to victims
 - The helicopter crash area was secured as a crime scene and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is conducting the investigation
- Recent Homicide
 - A homicide occurred Sunday morning at approximately 1:50–2:00 AM in the area of Yarmouth Ave and Ludlow Street
 - An occupied vehicle was parked on the street when an unknown suspect approached and fired multiple rounds into the vehicle -- Two occupants were struck, and one died
 - The case is being investigated by Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD)
 - The suspect or suspects remained outstanding at the time of the meeting
- Devonshire Crime Trends
 - Overall Crime Statistics continue to show positive trends

- Theft and burglary, motor-vehicle theft, aggravated assaults, robberies and rape were reported as trending downward, YTD, compared with the previous year
- The primary area showing an increase was burglary/theft from motor vehicles (BTFV).
- Devonshire continues to use daily missions and other strategies to address BTFV.
- Captain Lucas credited Devonshire detectives and specialized units, including Narcotics, Gang and Vice Units for their investigative and enforcement efforts

Senior Lead Officers Reports w/Q&A

- Basic Car 17A23 with SLO Phillip Yu
 - Crime in Basic Car 823 remains approximately 20% down overall except for BTFV which increased slightly, with 116 incidents this year compared with 114 last year, approximately a 1% increase.
 - Officer Yu will attend the Nautical Thrust concert at Jane and Bert Boeckmann Park from 4pm to 7 pm and will provide e-bike safety information to parents.
 - Extra patrols are being conducted in Porter Ranch following reports of package thefts.
 - The Chatsworth Kiwanis Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00pm at the Baseball Diamond to benefit the Chatsworth Little League
- Basic Car 17A35 – SLO John Parker

Conducted community outreach following the recent homicide and spoke with residents in the surrounding area

The motive remained undetermined, and the suspect or suspects are still outstanding

 - Overall crime in the area is down by 19.6%, with approximately 497 crimes this year compared with 618 last year
 - During the four-week period from approximately August 16 through September 12, there were 29 crimes, compared with a historical range of approximately 63–65
 - Burglaries are down 67.1%.
 - Officer Parker credited several factors, including:
 - ALPR cameras installed through Council District 12;
 - The Devonshire drone program; respond quickly and report accurate scene information and
 - Neighborhood Watch efforts and community education.
 - BTFV is up by 18.4%, concentrated primarily in Reporting District 1735 --SF Mission/ Lindley/Chatsworth/Balboa roughly during the hours between 6pm to 6 am
 - Upcoming events include the Pasta Dinner and Granada Hills Street Faire
- Basic Car 17A49 – SLO Greg Andrachick
 - The area around Balboa Boulevard and Devonshire Street, including the former Carl's Jr. location, has remained relatively clean with continued enforcement.
 - The former Carl's Jr. location has closed; the future use of the property is not yet known.
 - Continuing to coordinate vehicle and RV impounds

RV-related problems remain relatively limited, with many reported RVs being legally parked or moved.

One problematic RV on Rinaldi Street was addressed
 - An increase in crash-damaged vehicles was noted, with some individuals moving from RVs into vehicles.
 - Approximately 100 vehicles and 20 RVs per month continue to be addressed/removed through the coordinated enforcement effort
 - Officer Andrachick credited the strong relationship between Devonshire, the City, and Council District 12 for the success of the OPG (Official Police Garage) Program
- Basic Car 17A67 – SLO Sandra Zamora

- Grand Theft Auto (GTA), which had increased the previous month, is now trending downward.
- Overall year-to-date crime is down approximately 25%
- Property crime is down 20.2%, although aggravated assaults and robberies are higher, particularly along the Reseda Corridor
- A cleanup was conducted behind Vanalden Park on Ledan Street
- A Neighborhood Watch meeting was held with Council District 12's representatives to address neighborhood concerns
- The area had 33 crimes during the previous month
- The PALS Center had recently conducted a cleanup, with another cleanup scheduled for September 22 with Caltrans and Metrolink
- Officer Zamora and Officer Parker planned to assist with a community suicide-prevention walk at Elysian Park on Saturday
- A Pasta Dinner is scheduled next Friday at the Greek Church on Balboa Ave/Plummer Street
- Basic Car 17A95 – Interim Senior Lead Officer Antonio Villegas
 - Officer Villegas has been assisting with Basic Car A81 in addition to his own area while SLO Sigston is on vacation
 - A large encampment near Independence Avenue and Nordhoff Street has been cleaned up, with daily monitoring continuing
 - In 17A95, a large encampment at Gaviota Avenue and Nordhoff Street has also been cleaned up
 - Council District 12 continues to provide significant assistance with these efforts.
 - Officers continue to monitor and address RV problems.
Two RVs were removed from Haskell Avenue north of Parthenia Street.
 - Theft from motor vehicles remains an issue in the area.
Residents were reminded not to leave valuables inside vehicles.
- Homeless Coordinator – SLO Sean Taylor
 - Significant reduction in visible homeless encampments compared to approximately a year and a half ago
 - Two previously significant problem areas were Independence/Nordhoff and Nordhoff/Lurline
 - An Inside Safe detail/operation conducted with the Mayor's Office assisted in moving individuals to housing
Council District 12 assisted by making rooms available
Since the operation in early August, several individuals have not returned to the former locations
An overdose incident at Nordhoff/ Independence occurred earlier this month, resulting in additional attention to the area
 - A new manager has taken over the homeless shelter at Tampa Ave and Londerius St. and has developed a positive working relationship with LAPD
A recurring issue at this shelter involves visitors entering shelters and permanent living facilities after the 10PM visitor cut-off
LAPD is conducting additional patrols around shelter parking lots and focusing on vehicle enforcement and visibility
 - More crimes are occurring within half a mile of these locations than other locations
 - As fire season approaches, LAPD and its partners will increase attention to high fire severity zones
 - Fire zone maps are available through the LAFD website

- Encampments in high fire risk zones will receive elevated priority because of the danger to nearby homes and communities
- Changes to Street Vending enforcement under SB 635
 - Certain vending violations under LAMC 42.13 are now handled through administrative citations/fines rather than criminal enforcement including vending without a permit and vending in restricted/unsafe areas
 - However, the change does not eliminate criminal enforcement involving alcohol-related violations including illegal sale of alcohol, sale or furnishing alcohol to minors and open containers in public
- PALS Center – Sgt. Juan Guzman
 - The PALS golf tournament was recently held with a strong turnout.
 - PALS Bingo Night is scheduled for October 16 at the PALS Center
The start time is still being confirmed.
Bingo has become increasingly popular, reportedly attracting approximately 100 or more attendees.
 - K-9 Unit requested assistance locating large businesses, warehouses, or other properties that could be used for nighttime K-9 training.
Anyone able to provide a suitable location was asked to contact Sergeant Guzman
- Officer Zamora also reported that she is involved with the Devonshire Station fundraising committee.
 - Planning is underway for the department's holiday party
 - Donations of raffle prizes and sponsorships are being sought
 - A Topgolf fundraiser in Montebello is also being planned
 - For any businesses interested in sponsoring events or supporting the station, please contact SLO Zamora
- Senior Lead Office Supervisor – Sgt. Jose Torres
 - Sergeant Torres expressed appreciation to the SLO and CRO unit
 - He highlighted improvements in addressing:
 - Homeless encampments;
 - RVs and abandoned/problem vehicles;
 - Quality-of-life concerns
 - Arrests and enforcement activity
 - Stay-away orders; and
 - Property crime, including the reduction in burglaries in areas north of Rinaldi.
 - Sergeant Torres emphasized the importance of the continuing partnership between the community, LAPD, Council District 12, and other city agencies
 - Devonshire is already preparing for the upcoming special-event and holiday calendar, including Parades, Street Festivals, Oktoberfest and Religious/Holiday events
 - Community organizations were asked to notify Devonshire as early as possible about upcoming events so they can be placed on the department calendar
Due to current personnel challenges, last-minute additions to the calendar can make it difficult to provide an appropriate law-enforcement presence.
 - Community Vigil
A Chatsworth community vigil for those who lost their lives in the previous night's incident was announced for the following day at St. John Eudes, from 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Q&A/Comments:

- Community concerns over 11 Swatting reports within a month in a gated community in Porter Ranch, allegedly related to individuals filming the incidents to gain social media following
 - Officer Yu has not received many reports, but will look into the matter
Cases involving VPN can make identifying callers difficult

Additional information will be passed on to the Officers

- What about vendors occupying blocking sidewalks, bike lanes, parking areas or storing food outside the permitted area
 - Officers usually provide warning and education
 - If the vendor refuses to leave a hazardous location such as a street or bike lane enforcement may be possible subject to departmental procedures
- Will there be a Coffee with a Cop soon?
 - The Senior Lead Office was very busy this year with major events such as the World Cup and other community events
 - The Senior Lead Office will look at the calendar for possible date
- According to a supervisor of the County Health Dept. for inspectors said, they are no longer after individual vendors but the organization behind the street vendors

C-PAB Updates:

- Please respond to the community outreach email that was sent to all members
- Reminder regarding attendance – please review the Bylaws
- Devonshire outreach table at Granada Hills Street Faire

Other Comments:

PALS Center is having a Halloween Festival in October
Donations of candy and small prizes for games are being sought

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM

Next Meeting: October 21, 2026, at 5PM