



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

Senior Lead Officers Unit
6240 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, please call your Senior Lead Officer at the numbers listed below for further details.

Help Us PREVENT TERRORISM - "See Something, Report to iWATCH"

iWatch is a community program and partnership between the public and Los Angeles Police Department. The program educates the community regarding possible acts of terrorism by teaching them about behaviors and activities that appear unusual and/or seem to be out of the ordinary, makes them aware of important places to watch, and informs them on key details that should be included as part of the reporting process.

There are three platforms for public reporting:

1. iWATCH mobile application
2. Online through LAPDonline.org or iWATCHLA.org
3. 1-877-A-THREAT (1-877-284-7328)

For crimes in progress and medical emergencies dial: 911

To report any suspicious activity or person(s), call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273).

Are you interested in knowing about spontaneous police activity in your neighborhood? If so, you may want to try the "Citizen app." Get real-time safety alerts and live videos of incidents happening near you.

Crime Update

Basic Car 9A5

Interim Senior Lead Officer Matt Anderson

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email Address: 40073@lapd.online

Greetings to the community members in Basic Car 9A5. Year to date crime statistics as of March 13, 2024, show a YTD **decrease** of 17.79% in property crime, 54.55% in Burglary, 2.94% in Grand Theft Auto, 5.56% in Burglary from Motor Vehicles, and 19.72% in Personal Theft / Other Theft. Violent crime is also down - 22.22% YTD, 41.67% in Robbery, 13.04% in Aggravated Assault (no Rapes or Homicides).

There is only a thin piece of glass separating criminals from property left in your vehicles, and this shows that for the most part you all have remembered to remove your personal property from your locked / secured vehicles.

Regarding your homes / businesses, ensure all your doors, windows, and other access points are secured when you are away to minimize the opportunities criminals have. This includes securing your rear doors and windows as well as utilizing your security systems. If you do not have a security system, I highly recommend you research available services as there are many affordable options that are easy to install. Rule of thumb: **LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT!**

I invite you to text, email, or call me with any issues you see within your neighborhood no matter how small you may believe the issue to be. If I don't know about it, then I cannot help with the issues effecting your neighborhood unless I discover it myself. Help me help you. I do not mind returning to work with 100 texts, emails, and phone messages since they allow me to address your concerns more directly.

Please continue to secure your packages as they are delivered. The thieves are possibly following the delivery vehicles closely which shortens the window of time for you to retrieve your packages. Contact the shipping companies with delivery instructions regarding where to store the packages upon delivery as well as to knock / ring doorbell upon delivery. You can also attempt to have packages routed to a pick-up site or communicate with neighbors to have your packages secured when you are away during deliveries. It is best to be diligent retrieving your packages as they arrive if possible.

Surveillance cameras visibly operating on your doorsteps and/or delivery sites is a deterrent of these crimes and they can also provide officers and detectives detailed leads on the criminals depending on the video captured. **Please report these crimes to police as they occur and provide any video you may have of the criminals.** I continue to hear from community members that many of these crimes are not being reported even if the criminal is known to you and/or is captured clearly on surveillance video. Let these criminals know there are consequences for their bad choices. 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch may be hard to get through to, but a great alternative is LAPDONLINE.ORG where you can easily report the crime. You can also report the crime in person at the police station from 8am until 6pm 7 days a week (6240 Sylmar Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91401).

See Something, Say Something:

I see the reports coming in, and I hear directly from the officers on patrol regarding your diligence to protect your neighborhoods and businesses. When incidents are reported to the police, then the police are aware of the new or ongoing crimes in your area. I forward information from these reports to our patrol officers and specialized units to assist them in their efforts of apprehending these criminals. Also, continue to protect yourself by ensuring that you are always aware of your surroundings.

Stored / Abandoned Vehicles:

Stored and abandoned vehicles on the streets is an issue, and parking is hard to come by in many areas. If you have a vehicle you do not intend on driving for long periods of time, please store your vehicle on your property whether it is in your garage, driveway, parking stall, etc. If you have a trailer, it **MUST** be hitched to your vehicle if it is parked on the street (see 80.69.1 L.A.M.C.), but please store it on your property if you do not intend to use it for a long period of time. Also, if your vehicle's registration is expired for more than 6 months then it is subject to being towed if it is parked on the street(22651(o)(1)(a) CVC). As a result, parking enforcement has increased, and many vehicles have been impounded as a result.

Homeless Encampments:

I have made many arrests this month regarding the homeless in the area. These arrests have been for outstanding warrants for both violent crimes and property crimes as well as being caught in the act of Theft From Motor Vehicles. If you discover or observe persons not known to you on your property or your neighbors' properties that have no right to be there, please contact 9-1-1 emergency dispatch **IMMEDIATELY**.

MyLA311:

Lastly, it is a group effort to help keep our streets clean. I highly recommend utilizing the My LA 311 application like I do to create service requests to the Council District for clean-ups in your area. It is easy to download, and you can operate it without an account. Care Plus creates a service schedule based on these service requests. It is easy to use and can be utilized on both Apple and Android devices.

Should you have any issues, concerns or questions with any of these needs or topics, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I may assist you.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

Email Address: 35569@lapd.online

Greetings residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A19! I am happy to report the crime statistics for the first quarter of 2024 as of 3/16/24. All statistics are compared to the same time last year.

- Robbery -71.43%
- Aggravated Assaults -10.53%
- Total Violent Crime -19.23%
- Burglary -33.33%
- Grand Theft Auto -2.78%
- BFMV -35.29%
- Total Property Crime -9.82%
- Total Part 1 Crimes -11.59%

Personal and retail thefts are still a factor with retail thefts remain a significant issue within my basic car. Van Nuys Division's Part One Crimes are down 4.26% compared to last year.

Communal Blight: In past articles, I have written about communal blight and its impact on a neighborhoods and communities. Communal blight is defined as a "deteriorated condition" caused by several circumstances that worsens over time due to human neglect and disinvestment. Illegal dumping, graffiti, homeless encampments, abandoned vehicles, and unattended vacant properties are some examples of communal blight that if not addressed may lead to high crime rates, lower property values and discourages business

development. It is everybody's responsibility to keep our community and neighborhood clean and blight free. Please use the LA 311 application or contact your Senior Lead Officer to report this type of issues.

Van Nuys Blvd. Cruiser Night: This past month Van Nuys Area Commanding Officer Captain Alex Vargas, Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez (9A41) and I met with leaders of the Van Nuys Area car clubs to discuss the future of cruise nights on Van Nuys Blvd. We addressed the concerns of the community and the impact these events have on the neighborhoods adjacent to Van Nuys Boulevard. The leaders agreed to have less frequent events and curb other negative activities that have been associated with these events. The next Van Nuys Boulevard Cruise Night is scheduled for *Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 5PM-10PM*, on Van Nuys Boulevard from Oxnard Street to Burbank Boulevard. Van Nuys Division will monitor the cruise night and will take enforcement action if necessary.

For all **traffic related complaints** (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues), as of March 24, 2024, please contact Valley Traffic Officer Joseph Lona at 42768@lapd.online for traffic related issues. Please specify they type of violations, the area it's occurring and the time of day.

Neighborhood Watch! An involved community is an informed community. If you are interested in participating in a traditional Neighborhood Watch meeting or to restart an existing one, please email me.

Basic Car 9A23:

Senior Lead Officer George Lara

Cell Phone: 818-731-2557

Email Address: 38454@lapd.online

Spring is in the air and hopefully this newsletter finds you well. I hope everyone is enjoying themselves with this wonderful weather and sunshine.

During my patrol of our community, I have been noticing more and more of you walking in the neighborhood, some with your children, others with their pets and some on your own. It is really satisfying and heartwarming to see this as I know you feel safe and can enjoy being outdoors.

With that in mind, I would like to go over a few things related to pedestrian safety and traffic enforcement along with some of the most common violations we see in the residential neighborhoods.

If you are walking in the neighborhood, please be mindful of your surroundings, be sure to cross at designated crosswalks and wait for traffic to clear prior to entering the crosswalk. Most traffic accidents resulting in fatalities involve a pedestrian and they are generally due to distracted driving or walking. Hint: put away your cell phones and pay attention to the road!

For all my pedestrians that like to take a walk during the late evening, please make yourself visible while walking, reflective clothing, accessories and flashlights are a good way to keep you safe at night. Also, if you notice a street light that is not working properly, you can always report it via My LA 311. Simply select **Create Service Request** and scroll down to **Problems & Repairs** and select **Single Streetlight Issue**. This will give you the exact location and number of the light pole in question.

So, remember, obey all traffic laws when in residential neighborhoods. Drivers, slow down and come to a full and complete stop, yield to pedestrians, be courteous and when in doubt be kind and offer up the right of way to a fellow motorist or pedestrian.

Be mindful of parking signs and towaway zones, especially in neighboring school areas. Some signs are very specific and will only allow you to park for a designated period of time, others will indicate specific times that there is parking allowed.

If you would like to schedule a meeting, please feel free to contact me. I am always open and available to meet. To all my business owners and managers in the area, feel free to call or e-mail so we can discuss the possibility of starting a Business Watch Group in your area.

Basic Car 9A37

Interim Senior Lead Officer Maksym Chernov

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2562

Email Address: 42489@lapd.online

Greetings to residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A37. I want to inform everyone about some of the latest trick criminals and, in particular, burglars are using to gain unauthorized access to properties - Wi-Fi jammers. A Wi-Fi jammer is a wireless device that is used to interrupt the wireless network operation by simply transmitting a strong signal at the same frequency as the Wi-Fi network. This can prevent legitimate devices, like wireless cameras and alarms, from connecting to the network or cause existing connections to be unstable or slow.

The use of a phone jammer, GPS blocker, or other signal jamming device designed to intentionally block, jam, or interfere with authorized radio communications is a violation of federal law. There are no exemptions for use within a business, classroom, residence, or vehicle.

What to do if You Believe Authorized Communications are Being Jammed: A loss of or interference with service can occur for a variety of reasons. If you are experiencing problems with your service, your first course of action should be to contact your wireless provider to investigate the issue. You should also troubleshoot your equipment and connectivity issues in accordance with manufacturer and service provider recommendations. If after contacting your provider and confirming that equipment and connectivity is not the cause of the interference, and you still have reason to believe that someone is using a jammer, or you would like to report the selling, advertising, shipping, distributing, or importing of jammers, you may file a complaint or submit an inquiry through the FCC Consumer Complaint Center by visiting the FCC Consumer Complaint Center at www.consumercomplaints.fcc.gov (which can also be reached via the "File a Consumer Complaint" banner on the FCC.gov home page).

The bottom line is using wireless cameras is a great way to keep an eye on your property, but do not solely rely on it. Consider using hardwired security systems and alarms that do not utilize wireless signal, but rather are hardwired the "old school" way.

Switching gears, for **traffic related questions and concerns**, please contact Valley Traffic Officer Lona at 42768@lapd.online or by his cell phone at 323-382-1530. When calling the cell phone, always leave a voice mail and specify the type of violations, the area of occurrence and the time of day.

My assignment has come to an end and I would like to inform everyone that Senior Lead Officer Delatori is back and she will be taking over. It was a pleasure, honor and a privilege to be assigned as your interim SLO. Be safe, everyone!

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 36816@lapd.online

Hello basic car 9A41, homeless encampments have been a concern for many residents and businesses. I have been receiving several complaints from residents regarding People Experiencing Homelessness in their neighborhoods and tents blocking the sidewalks. I have also been working closely and very diligently with the TSD HOPE unit, Sanitation, and the Council Districts Field Deputies. Additionally, the Los Angeles City Council approved revisions to LAMC section 41.18, consistent with case law. When an officer observes or receives a complaint of, and thereafter confirms that a person is sitting, lying, or sleeping, or storing, using, maintaining, or placing personal property in the public right-of-way:

- 41.18(a)(1) LAMC – That obstructs or unreasonably interferes with the minimum clearance of a continuous three-foot wide pathway as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 41.18(a)(2) LAMC- Within ten feet of any operational or utilizable driveway or loading dock.
- 41.18(a)(3) LAMC- Within five feet of any operational or utilizable building entrance or exit.
- 41.18(a)(4) LAMC- Within two feet of any fire hydrant, fire plug, or other fire department connection.
- 41.18(a)(5) LAMC- Within the public right-of-way in a manner that obstructs or unreasonably interferes with the use of the right-of-way for any activity for which the city has issued a permit.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that it is a group effort to help keep our streets clean. If you see any area that has bulky items left (furniture, mattresses etc..), please utilize the **MYLA311** app. This app is a free download, and very easy to use. Please provide as many details as possible to ensure that the appropriate resources are sent to provide the needed services. This will help prevent the items being used by the homeless as their furniture.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email Address: 40229@lapd.online

Greetings Sherman Oaks! We are experiencing spike in grand theft autos (GTA).

What is grand theft auto?

Any person who drives or takes a vehicle not his or her own, without the consent of the owner thereof, and with intent either to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner thereof of his or her title to or possession of the vehicle, whether with or without intent to steal the vehicle, or any person who is a party or an accessory to or an accomplice in the driving or unauthorized taking or stealing, is guilty of this public offense.

Kia models from 2011 to 2021 and Hyundai models from 2015 to 2021 were missing electronic immobilizers - an anti-theft device that uses a unique chip in the key fob to unlock the car. Without an immobilizer, thieves could easily unscrew the steering column in the cars, insert a USB into the ignition, and drive away.

My advice- speak to a certified Kia or Hyundai car dealer to update the software that fixes these issues.

- Use Anti-theft steering wheel lock
- Take your vehicle keys with you. Do not leave them inside your vehicle
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park
- Park in well-lit areas
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle
- Lock it, Hide it, Keep it!

Have you heard about the new Community Law Corps division from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office? The Community Law Corps is a new division within the City Attorney's Municipal Law Branch, serving as the first point of contact for Los Angeles residents. Comprised of attorneys and legal professionals with years of experience in civil and criminal law, the Community Law Corps takes preventative and proactive measures to address a variety of issues that affect neighborhoods and establishes partnerships to resolve problems that enforcement, alone, cannot adequately address. The Community Law Corps may be contacted by:

Email: att.communitylawcorps@lacity.org

Phone: 213-978-7878

Please remember these important phone numbers: for non-emergency police response, please contact 1-877-275-5273 (1-877-ASK-LAPD) and 9-1-1 for police, fire, and any life-threatening medical emergencies.

Basic Car 9A89

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

Cell Phone: 818-731-2565

Email Address: 30853@lapd.online

Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City.

Please ensure that you lock your car doors and windows, and do not leave any valuables in plain sight. This includes items such as purses, wallets, electronics, and other valuable items. It is best to take these items with you or lock them in the trunk of your car.

How Thieves are Using Technology to Break into Cars and How to Protect Your Vehicle

The way the keyless mechanism works is quite simple. A digital key, whether it's an RFID card, a fob, or a smartphone, emits a short-range signal. When near the car, this signal allows the user to open the doors by simply touching the handle. Thieves exploit this by using relay devices. One thief positions a device near a home or the key owner to capture its signal. A second thief, near the car, then uses this signal to unlock it. The vehicle thinks the genuine key is nearby, which can also allow starting the engine. Once inside, thieves can potentially program a new key.

FOB Protectors: A Shield Against Relay Attacks

FOB protectors, acting like Faraday cages, block relay attacks by sealing the key fob's signal. Although effective, they are not invincible, especially if thieves employ advanced tools.

Consider Advanced Vehicle Trackers

Vehicle trackers have become indispensable tools in enhancing security. Most of these devices are equipped to promptly alert owners if their vehicle undergoes unexpected movements or disturbances. The integration of GPS technology allows for the real-time tracking of a vehicle's location in the event of theft. Whether you opt for a premium tracker with a suite of features or a more budget-friendly option, the added layer of protection it provides can be substantial.

If you see suspicious activities, report it to the LAPD non-emergency number at 877-275-5273 (877-ASK-LAPD).

Please utilize MYLA311 for debris and/or bulky items that are left on the street/sidewalk.

For information on volunteer opportunities with the LAPD, email Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online, or call (818) 374-5420. Program information, the application process, and current volunteer opportunities will be provided. All applicants are required to be fingerprinted as part of LAPD background procedures.

Crime Prevention Tips

- ***IF YOU'RE HOME AND SOMEONE KNOCKS OR RINGS YOUR DOORBELL, DO NOT IGNORE IT.*** Would be burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person without opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them.
- ***SECURITY AND/OR DOOR BELL SYSTEMS WITH VIDEO*** are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider these options to protect your home.
- ***DON'T LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN YOUR VEHICLES.*** Whether you are tandem parked, parked in a garage, or just going inside for a moment (i.e. gas station, your home, etc.), do not leave your keys in your vehicles.
- ***STEERING WHEEL LOCKS.*** 1990's Toyota's and Honda's are some of the most common vehicles stolen. These vehicles have door locks and ignitions that are easily compromised. Steering wheel locks are good tools to assist in deterring criminals from taking these vehicles.
- ***LOCK YOUR CAR AND PARK IT IN A GARAGE OR LIGHTED AREA.*** Make it difficult to get into your car. If it is outside, make your car as visible as possible. Do not leave anything valuable or visible in your vehicles.
- ***LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS*** when you leave the house. Close your blinds/drapes so no one can see into your house. Keep every part of your residence locked and secured, including your garage. Strategic lighting can also assist with crime prevention.
- ***DON'T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT,*** place them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.
- ***TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR,*** this includes your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.
- ***SHOPPING CART.*** Do not leave your purses in the shopping cart while loading your vehicles.