



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

August 2025

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

Senior Lead Officer Brian Franco

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Homeless encampments and graffiti in our community have been a concern for many residents and businesses. I have been working closely and very diligently with the Urban Alchemy CIRCLE team, Sanitation, and the Council Districts Field Deputies. 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. Los Angeles 311 connects Angelenos with City services and information they need to enjoy their city, beautify their community and stay connected with their local government. We value all community partnerships and empower users by putting the power of City hall in their hands. Use these tools to help us further promote efforts in improving livability and cleanliness. 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.

The MYLA311 app can also be used to request graffiti removal from our community. The MYLA311 app plays a vital role in maintaining clean and safe communities by making it easy for residents to report graffiti for prompt removal. Graffiti, especially when left unaddressed, can contribute to a sense of neglect and may even attract more vandalism or criminal activity. Through the MYLA311 app, users can quickly submit photos and locations of graffiti, allowing city crews to respond efficiently and remove it before it spreads. This not only helps preserve the appearance of neighborhoods but also promotes a sense of pride, safety, and shared responsibility among residents. By streamlining the graffiti removal process, the MYLA311 app supports community well-being and urban quality of life.

Let's keep working together Van Nuys. Stay Safe.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

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Greetings residents and business owners in Basic Car A19!

Loud or Unruly Gatherings Ordinance Recently I have received many complaints of loud parties within my basic car. Loud parties can be tolerable, but when they are taking place too frequently they become a nuisance and disrupts the quality of life of the neighborhood. LAMC 41.58.1-Loud or Unruly Gatherings Ordinance was established to combat problem short-term rental properties such as Air B&Bs, from have large unruly parties by short-term renters. This ordinance also applies to home owners who frequently have loud parties or rent out their backyards for commercial use. 41.58.1 LAMC allow the property owner or the responsible party to be issued an Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) citation, with fines up to\$8,000.

LAMC 41.58.1 Overview

- Allows us to cite the property owner or “responsible party” for having a “loud or unruly gathering” at a residential property.
- Property owner will be punished even if not at scene, or even if no one comes to the door.
- Requires a posted “Notice” at the front of the property.
- Can be cited as an ACE or as a misdemeanor.

- Two Enforceable Sections. **LAMC 41.58.1 (b) and (d).**

Lastly, a “loud and unruly” gathering is defined as a gathering of persons at any residence where loud and unruly conduct occurs at the residence or within 500ft of the residence, and which threatens or interferes with public health, safety, welfare of the comfortable enjoyment of life and property. If such a property exists in your neighborhood, please notify your Senior Lead Officer immediately.

2025 National Night Out: This year, National Night Out will be held on Tuesday August 5, 2025 starting at 4 PM in the Civic Center in front of Van Nuys Community Police Station. Hope to see you all there!

Community Clean-Up: Our next community clean-up is scheduled for Saturday August 23, 2025. Location TBD.

Basic Car 9A23

Officer Chase Lambert (Interim SLO)

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Hello Everyone,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Officer Chase Lambert, and I will be on loan to the Senior Lead Office. I will be working the basic car 9A23 in the Van Nuys Area. I have been an Officer for 18 years with the Los Angeles Police Department. Eighteen years working for the City of Los Angeles has gone by in a flash. I have worked in various parts of the city including South Central Los Angeles, and Hollywood, but Van Nuys has been my home for 10 years. I have worked various assignments during my career including Newton CLEAR, and Hollywood Gang Enforcement Detail. The last few years, I was granted the privilege of being a Field Training Officer for Van Nuys Division. Although I am still learning the ins and outs of the duties of a Senior Lead Officer, with my past specialized unit experience, and the help of the experienced Senior Lead Officers in Van Nuys, I will learn fast. I look forward to meeting you all and working together to make the community a better place for the residents of Van Nuys.

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

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The Los Angeles Police Department is committed to serving the community while protecting the rights of all persons. Consistent with this commitment, the Department’s Vision, Mission and Core Values, in concert with the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and the Department’s Management Principles, reflect the guiding philosophy of the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Origin of the LAPD Motto:

In February 1955, the Los Angeles Police Department, through the pages of the internally produced BEAT magazine, conducted a contest for a motto for the police academy. The conditions of the contest stated that: “The motto should be one that in a few words would express some or all the ideals to which the Los Angeles police service is dedicated. It is possible that the winning motto might someday be adopted as the official motto of the Department.”

The winning entry was the motto, “To Protect and to Serve” submitted by Officer Joseph S. Dorobek.

“To Protect and to Serve” became the official motto of the Police Academy, and it was kept constantly before the officers in training as the aim and purpose of their profession. With the passing of time, the motto received wider exposure and acceptance throughout the department.

On November 4, 1963, the Los Angeles City Council passed the necessary ordinance and the credo has now been placed alongside the City Seal on the Department’s patrol cars.

If you are interested in starting or joining a neighborhood watch group, please email me with your contact information. Thank you for your continued support of the Officers here at Van Nuys Division!

For more information and safety tips please visit <https://www.lapdonline.org>

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez

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Hello basic car 9A41! A new school year is fast approaching as LAUSD goes back to school on August 15, 2025. It can be a hectic time for both students, school staff and parents. Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. The National Safety Council (NSC) has provided the following tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Back to School Safety

Walking to school

- Review your family’s walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

Riding a bicycle to school

- Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street.
- Walk bikes across the street.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

Riding the bus to school

- Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them
- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Teach your children to stand six feet (or 3 giant steps) away from the curb
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

Community Clean-Up: The Sylvan Street Neighborhood watch conducts regular Community Clean-Ups through-out the Van Nuys communities. Our next clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 8:00AM at the Van Nuys Community Police Station Courtyard. If you would like more information about the clean-ups or to participate, please email me at 36816@lapd.online.

Lastly, National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2025, between 4PM and 7PM, at the Van Nuys Community Police Station Courtyard. If you would like more information about NNO please email me or call me at 818-731-2560.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings Sherman Oaks,

Summer is here, and we cannot be more excited to hang out with family and friends around the pool. With that comes safety precautions we should all be reminded of.

Safety Tips:

- Invest in a pool gate. Always verify that it is locked.
- Never leave a child alone in or near the pool. Not even for a HOT second.
- Teach your children good safety pool habits- such as no running, pushing, jumping on others, etc.
- Do not solely rely on lifejackets, inflatable arm bands, etc.
- Learn CPR.
- During social gatherings, post your address on a sign. In case of an emergency, your guest will know your address. Call 911.

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

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

Prevent Theft from Unlocked Vehicles:

An unlocked vehicle is an easy target and it only takes seconds for a thief to grab what's in plain sight, check the usual hiding places for other items and get away. Preventing theft from unlocked vehicles requires the participation of all residents.

What can You Do to Prevent Being a Victim?

Practice these Auto Protection tips every day:

- ALWAYS lock all doors and close windows.
- REMOVE any valuable items in your car. If you must leave them in your car, put them in the trunk where they are out of sight.
- Park in locked garages if possible.
- Set an alarm or anti-theft device.
- REMOVE garage door remotes from vehicles.

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.