



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

January 2024



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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

Officer Matt Anderson

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Happy New Years to the community members in Basic Car 9A5. Year to date crime statistics as of December 14, 2023 show violent crime to be up 36.22% which is 46 more violent crimes and the statistics show property crime to be up 6.41% which is 41 more property crimes. The main property crime occurring is Personal Theft / Other Theft which is up 40.64% translating to 89 more reported theft crimes.

As a reminder, there is only a thin piece of glass separating criminals from property left in your vehicles, so please remember to remove your personal property from your locked / secured vehicles. Also, make sure all your doors, windows, and other access points into your homes are secured when you are away. This includes your rear doors and windows. If you have a security system, then please utilize it. 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!**

Whether it's the holiday season or a standard weekday, we all have packages being delivered to our homes and businesses frequently. To prevent your packages from being taken, 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 as they occur and provide any video you may have of the criminals. You can also forward any pictures or video to me to help me keep an eye out for the criminals as I patrol your community.

Regarding the violent crime increase, if you see something, say something. If incidents are not reported to the police, then the police are unaware 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, protect yourself by ensuring that you are always aware of your surroundings. Try to utilize the "buddy system" whenever possible and especially for those early morning, or late-night walks.

I have been responding to locations in the Basic Car area suffering from homeless encampments and bulk item trash. I have been in contact with Council Districts 2 and 6 regarding strategies to provide housing for the homeless and keep the communities clean from the trash that results from these encampments. The Field Deputies from both districts are diligent and passionate workers for your community that I am enjoying learning from and working with. I am also actively working with the Senior Lead Officers from the LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit regarding Persons Experiencing Homelessness that may qualify for additional assistance. With the continued help of these individuals, we can discover and execute long term solutions. You all have been very patient with the process, and I encourage you to continue to contact me with your concerns.

I want to remind everyone that 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. Care Plus creates a service schedule based on these service requests. It is easy to use. Should you have any issues or concerns with any of these needs, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I may assist you.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

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Greetings residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A19. I want to begin this article with wishing you the very happiest of new year and hope you had festive and safe holiday season. Basic Car 9A19 ended the year with an 11% decrease in all violent crime including a 45% decrease in robberies compared to last year. Residential and commercial burglaries have plagued my basic car all year which contributed to the 27% increase compared to last year.

Van Nuys Community-Police Advisory Board. LAPD established the Community-Police Advisory Boards (C-PABs) in 1993 to provide community members with an opportunity to provide information and advice to their respective Area and to take information from the police department back to the community. CPAB meets every month to discuss crime and quality of life issues and the meeting is ran by the Area commanding officer and a civilian member voted on by the membership. Many C-PABs have formed subcommittees in addition to the general group to tackle specific crime and quality of life problems. In the past the Van Nuys CPAB has had subcommittees such as Blight, Homeless, Outreach and Teen CPAB. This year the membership has voted long time Van Nuys Resident and Community Advocate Penny Meyer as their co-chair. We look forward to working with her to improve the quality of life within the Van Nuys Community. If you are interested in joining the Van Nuys CPAB please contact your Senior Lead Officer.

For all **traffic related complaints**, (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues), please contact Valley Traffic Officer Evan Urias at 38412@lapd.online. Please specify they type of violations, the area it's occurring and the time of day.

For **abandoned vehicle** complaints call DOT dispatch at 818-374-4823.

For **graffiti, illegal dumping, bulk item removal, street services, animal related services, parks, trees and vegetation, or private property** use the www.myla311.lacity.org to report such requests.

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

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Happy New Year to all of you! I am very optimistic and hopeful that this year will be full of health, success and overall good, positive things for you and your families.

We finished off the year with an overall reduction in crime and that makes me very happy and proud of all the work we have been putting in, but I need your help in keeping these numbers down. During my day to day patrols of your neighborhood, I have noticed some issues that require some attention and would like to provide some tips on how we can make our neighborhood the safest and best place to be in.

Abandoned property, bulky items and graffiti can reported to 311, it's the easiest most effective way to get rid of these. If you see abandoned shopping carts in your neighborhood, send me an email or a text message with a picture and where the shopping cart is from and I will notify the store to come and collect their cart. If the abandoned property is on your lawn or within your property line, you can dispose of it as you see fit.

One of the recurring issues that we have in our area is Theft and Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Please ensure that you have locked your vehicle and that you remove all items from plain view. The recipe is quite simple, Lock It! Hide It! Keep It! This goes for when visiting shopping centers, supermarkets and even in your home.

One of my main goals for 2024 is to reach out to as many of you as possible, please consider forming or revamping neighborhood watch groups. We can meet in person or virtually on any of the available platforms. If you have any ideas or would wish to send out a message to your neighborhood, please send it to me and I will ensure that the message gets delivered. Remember, I am only a phone call or text message away. If you need more immediate police response, do not hesitate to call 877-ASK-LAPD or to dial 911 for emergencies.

Basic Car 9A37

Officer Maksym Chernov

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Greetings to residents and business owners of Basic Car 9SL37. As we are entering winter holiday season in full speed, we see spike in auto thefts and theft from vehicles at this time of the year. I would like to remind everyone of basic safety tips that everyone can utilize and benefit from.

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep your car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device such as steering wheel lock, brake pedal lock or a wheel lock.
- Use a GPS tracker to know location of your car at all times. This especially important if your teenage child drives it.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or parked cars that are parked with multiple occupants sitting in them.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Over the past several weeks, there has been an alarming rise of hate crimes and incidents against Jewish and Muslim members of our community. If you are a victim of a hate crime, call or go to your nearest police station to report the crime. Any police officer can take a hate crime or hate incident report. The investigation will then be conducted by a detective that is assigned to handle hate crime cases.

Hate crimes disrupt community order, hurt neighborhoods and individuals and will not be tolerated. The only way to conquer hate crime is by having every person get involved. Therefore, the Los Angeles Police

Department encourages any citizen that has been a witness to a hate crime or hate incident to step forward and report the occurrence.

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez

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Greetings and Happy New Year 2024! Hope everyone was able to ring in the new year with family and friends.

I have been working closely and very diligently with the Urban Alchemy CIRCLE team, Sanitation, and the Council Districts Field Deputies on homeless encampments. They have been a concern for many residents and businesses. 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.

Please stay vigilant and properly secure your homes as it relates to closing and locking windows at night. With this said, please continue to stay alert and report suspicious activity as it relates to residential burglary. If possible, the utilization of a ring type video surveillance system for your residence is always a good deterrent. The more layers of deterrent towards hardening the target of your residence, helps to reduce your chances of being victimized. Please continue to stay involved with a Neighborhood Watch Program and get to know your neighbors.

I would also like to remind everyone to **LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT!** Locking your car and not leaving visible items are key to preventing these thefts.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings and Happy New Year!

Hard to believe it is 2024. Time sure passes by when you are having fun! I would like to wish you a wonderful New Year filled with happiness and health.

Want to get the latest crime statistic updates and crime prevention tips? Let's discuss and plan potential solutions to address your neighborhood's crime problems. Let's organize a neighborhood watch meeting. Reach out to me!

Please remember these important phone numbers for Non-Emergency police response: 1-877-275-5273 (1-877-ASK-LAPD) or 9-1-1 for police, fire or medical emergency.

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.

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.

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.