



## ***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

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Greetings to the community members in Basic Car 9A5. Year to date crime statistics as of February 17, 2024, show violent crime to be down 34.62% and the statistics show property crime to also be down 23.39%.

Last month reported Burglary from Motor Vehicle crimes had doubled in comparison to YTD 2023, but is now lower than 2023 YTD. This number shows the precautions you all have been making to prevent this from happening to you. 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.

Burglaries are also significantly down from 2023 YTD by 68.42%. Making sure all your doors, windows, and other access points into your homes are secured when you are away minimizes 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 have had the privilege of meeting some of you at community meetings where which we have developed a cohesive plan to tackle the challenges in your neighborhoods whether they be quality of life issues or criminal activity. A consistent plan of action with all the neighborhood meetings has been to text, email, or call me with any issues you see within your neighborhood. If I don't know about it, then I cannot help with the issue 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 have recently learned that many of these crimes are not being reported even though 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).

Regarding the violent crime decrease, please continue to say something if you see 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. Many of you (shout out to Katherine Square) go on group walks with neighbors to connect with each other. This is a great example of utilizing the “buddy system” whenever possible and especially for those early morning, or late-night walks.

I want to again touch on parking within your neighborhoods. 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.

Regarding the persons experiencing homelessness, 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 City 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.

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

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#### **Good Neighbor Laws:**

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office recently published a comprehensive guide to LAMC (municipal codes) that apply to “good neighborhood laws.” Complaints dealing with neighborhood loud gatherings, home vehicle repairs, parking issues, outside residential storage, vacant commercial and residential buildings, trash/debris and excess vegetation and illegal dumping all fall under the “good neighbor laws.” Sometimes knowing what department agency is responsible for investigation and possible enforcement of these violations you may achieve a more effective and timely result. This month I have broken what you need to know.

#### **Noise Complaints:**

Ongoing issues with party houses, loud or unruly gatherings

Contact your SLO.

Construction: Before or after permitted hours (8am-9pm)

LADBS/ SLO

Home Auto Repair

LADBS

Inoperable Vehicles	LADOT/ SLO
Parking in Alleys	LADOT/ SLO
Outside Storage (furniture, auto parts, construction materials)	LADBS
Vacant Buildings (commercial/ residential)	SLO
Trash/ Debris/ Excessive Vegetation	LADBS
Illegal Dumping	311

Additionally, you can contact the follow city departments for questions or guidance:

- LAPD Noise Enforcement Team 213-996-1250
- LADBS (Department of Building and Safety) 888-524-2845
- LADOT Parking Enforcement 213-485-4184
- Bureau of Street Services 800-996-2489
- All other requests 311

For all **traffic related complaints** (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues), please contact Valley Traffic Officer Karen Torres at [41274@lapd.online](mailto:41274@lapd.online). 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

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Hello and welcome to the month of March! For those of you who are new to these monthly newsletters, I am the Senior Lead Officer for Basic Car Area 9A23 which covers the area of Sherman Way to the North down to Victory Blvd to the South and from Van Nuys Blvd to the East to the 405 Fwy to the West.

As you can imagine, I am responsible for a pretty large area of our division and we can get quite busy at times. I would like to take a moment and invite you to review our **COMMUNITY ONLINE REPORTING SERVICE(CORS) AND TELEPHONIC REPORTS**. Please keep this information in mind before you place a call to our non-emergency number and thus avoid long wait times.

The following crimes incidents can be reported using the Community Online Reporting Service (CORS) as the primary reporting system if the appropriate criteria are met.

#### **Identity Theft**, when:

- The incident involved the use of a credit card, or debit card to purchase items (gasoline, hotel room, electronics, or withdraw cash).

#### **Lost Property**, when:

- Property was unintentionally left by its true owner.

**Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls/Electronic Mail**, when:

- Any person who repeatedly, with the intent to annoy, telephones, or makes contact by means of an electronic communication.

**Hit and Run Collisions**, when:

- No injury; and,
- Does not involve City property.

**Traffic Collisions** that involve:

- Complained of pain and/or other visible injuries; and,
- Minor damage.

**Burglary/Theft From Vehicle, Plain Theft, or Petty Theft**, when:

- The property taken is valued at less than, \$5000;
- Theft was not a result of a forged or counterfeit check, credit card fraud, a financial scam, or extortion;
- The property taken was not a gun; and,
- The person reporting is the owner of the property taken (e.g., individual, or employee of a business).

**Grand Theft-Pickpocket** when:

- The suspect is not at the scene;
- There is no possibility of locating the suspect through a limited follow up investigation by field personnel; and,
- The property taken is valued at less than \$5, 000.

**Vandalism**, when:

- Damage is less than \$5,000;
- Does not involve a Hate Crime;
- Does not involve Domestic Violence;
- Vandalism is not the result of gun shots;
- Does not involve a Restraining Order; or,
- Does not involve a labor dispute.

The following are **NOT** eligible for *CORS*, but are eligible for telephonic reports:

**Assault or Battery**, when:

- No additional battery is likely to occur; and,
- The injury, if any, does not require immediate medical attention.

**Stolen Vehicle**, when:

- The person reporting is the registered owner or lessee of the vehicle; and,
- The employee taking the report has verified through Department of Motor Vehicles files:
  - o The registration and ownership of the vehicle;
  - o The identity of the reporting person;
  - o The vehicle has not been towed by an authorized authority; and,
  - o The vehicle has not been reported by another responsible party (e.g., stolen, impounded, repossessed).

So, if you need to file a report and the incident meets any of the above criteria, you can visit [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) and click on “FILE A POLICE REPORT ONLINE.” Remember that filing a false police report is a crime.

*Anyone filing a false police report may be prosecuted under California Penal Code section 148.5 PC. Filing a false police report is punishable by imprisonment in county jail not exceeding 6 months, or by fine not exceeding \$1,000, or by both.*

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

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Greetings to residents and business owners of Basic Car 9SL37. Car theft is still a hot topic as we get multiple reports of stolen cars daily. I am sure some of you have had your car stolen at some point in life or you know someone whose car had been stolen in the past. I've been there. My old Honda was taken from in front of my apartment complex and it was a hard pill to swallow as it was my only car at that time. Here are some tips and preventative measures we can use to keep our cars safe. Some of them may sound like common sense, but if they are being mentioned here, it means that someone became negligent and paid the expensive price.

- **When leaving your car unattended, make sure that your car doors are locked and secured.** As obvious as it sounds, sometimes we simply get preoccupied by what is going on in our everyday lives that we forget important details.
- **Do not leave your car engine idling (warming up) unattended with keys in the ignition.** Another obvious one, but sometimes we get complacent and rely on our luck. Many car thieves are opportunists and all it takes is a right place and a right time.
- **Keep your car keys/fobs secured at home.** This applies to those of us who use tandem parking spaces. It is convenient to have spare car keys stored in both cars. Car thieves know this too. They tend to brake lock/window to one car and remove key to the other car. The outcome is obvious.
- **Aftermarket alarm system.** While most newer cars come equipped with security system from factory, older vehicles use mechanical locks and an ignition key without a chip. It is relatively easy task for experienced car thief to start a car with a flat object like a screwdriver. This is how my old Honda was taken.
- **Use a locking device.** While steering wheel or pedal locking devices do not have sophisticated locking mechanism, they can certainly serve as a deterrence tactic. Car thieves want to spend as little time as possible fidgeting with locks. If they see that your car has another obstacle, they likely will choose to skip it.
- **GPS tracker.** Many newer cars are equipped with tracking devices. Some can be tracked from an app on your phone while others may require a log in to the tracking system website. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with how the systems works.
- **Install a "Kill Switch."** It is a switch that disconnects a battery or a fuel pump. Talk to your mechanic about installing a secret, hidden switch which will need to be activated before the engine could be started.

### **Basic Car 9A41**

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Hello basic car 9A41, Grand Theft Auto Crimes are on the rise. Recently the Van Nuys Division has seen a rise in Auto Thefts. The majority vehicles that have been taken have been older model (90's) Toyotas and Hondas.

#### Ways to Reduce Auto Thefts and Break Ins:

- LOCK all your car doors.
- Remove all valuables.
- NEVER leave spare keys in your car.
- NEVER leave your car running unattended.
- Install an alarm system with GPS.
- Because sue to install secure license plate screws.
- Completely close all windows.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit location, avoid isolated areas.

Lastly, most of the crime in Van Nuys is fueled by property crime especially auto related crimes such as Grand Theft Auto, Burglary/ Theft from motor vehicle. Thieves also target catalytic converters because they contain precious metals, like platinum, palladium or rhodium, that are valuable to metal dealers. Thieves can sell them to scrap yards for up \$200 each. Thieves typically use a saw or wrench to remove it, depending on whether the catalytic converter is bolted or welded in and removal can take as little as one minute. So, what can you do to help prevent catalytic converter theft? Read on to learn more about what thieves might be looking for and tips to help protect your vehicle.

#### **Protect Your Vehicle Against Catalytic Converter Theft**

- Fuel-powered vehicles manufactured after 1974 have catalytic converters. Thieves often target taller vehicles (such as pickup trucks or SUVs) because they can easily fit under the vehicle to access the catalytic converter. In Van Nuys Division most of the catalytic converters were taken from cars parked on the street for long periods of time.
- You may not be able to tell your catalytic converter was stolen by looking at your car, but you will know as soon as you start the engine. When the catalytic converter has been removed, your vehicle will make a loud roaring sound that will get louder as you push the gas pedal. Your car might also make a sputtering sound as you change speed, or you'll notice it's not driving smoothly.
- A victim of theft may spend up to \$2,000 getting their vehicle repaired. Consider these tips from to help protect your car from catalytic converter theft:
- When possible, park in well-lit areas and close to building entrances.
- If you have a garage at your house, park your car inside and keep the garage door shut.
- Have the catalytic converter welded to your car's frame, which may make it harder to steal.
- Consider engraving your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the catalytic converter — this may help alert a scrap dealer that it was stolen and make it easier to identify the owner.
- Calibrate your car's alarm to set off when it detects vibration.
- Install a catalytic converter cover such as Cat Security available at your local car dealer.
- Understanding when your car might be a target for catalytic converter theft is the first key to preventing it. By following these protective measures, you may help deter thieves from targeting your car.

**Basic Car 9A63**

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings Sherman Oaks,

Happy March! It's been a few busy weeks with attending neighborhood watch meetings. These meetings have had great turnouts. If you are interested in organizing a neighborhood watch meeting, please reach out to me. I will come out to your neighborhood, provide the current crime statistics and provide crime prevention tips.

Sherman Oaks has been experiencing a higher number of residential burglaries. Here are some ways to prevent residential burglaries.

- Install an alarm system
- Install exterior motion sensor lights
- Install a video surveillance system
- Keep windows closed and locked at all times
- Lock side gates and rear doors
- Close/lock all doors and garage
- Trim trees and bushes away from the house
- If out of town, ask a neighbor to pick up your mail, packages and newspaper

Want to know the best crime prevention tool ever invented? **A GOOD NEIGHBOR!**

- Law enforcement officers cannot be everywhere at once, but you and your neighbors can. You are the ones who really know what is going on in the neighborhood
- Put that neighborhood know-how to work. It's simple: just use your eyes and ears — then your telephone. If you spot something suspicious, call the police immediately
- Do not try to stop a criminal yourself —it can be dangerous
- Neighbors working together in cooperation with law enforcement make one of the best crime fighting teams around

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.

**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](mailto: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.