



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

May 2026

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.

Senior Lead Officer Update

Basic Car 9A5

Senior Lead Officer Brian Franco

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

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Auto theft continues to be a major concern in our area, but the good news is that many of these crimes are preventable. As part of our commitment to keeping our communities safe, I would like to share some practical steps you can take to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle theft.

1. Lock It Every Time

It may sound simple but always lock your vehicle, even if you're stepping away for just a moment. Many thefts occur because cars are left unlocked or with windows partially open.

2. Take Your Keys and Valuables

Never leave your keys in the ignition or inside the vehicle. Avoid hiding spare keys inside or underneath your car. Additionally, remove valuables such as bags, electronics, or wallets, or keep them out of sight.

3. Park Smart

Whenever possible, park in well-lit, high-traffic areas. At home, use a garage if available. If you must park on the street, choose locations visible to neighbors or security cameras.

4. Use Anti-Theft Devices

Visible deterrents like steering wheel locks, car alarms, or immobilizers can discourage thieves. Even older vehicles can benefit from aftermarket anti-theft systems.

5. Be Mindful of Remote Start and Keyless Entry

Modern vehicles with keyless entry systems can be targeted by thieves using signal amplification devices. Store your key fob in a signal-blocking pouch (Faraday bag) and avoid leaving it near doors or windows at home.

6. Don't Leave Your Car Running Unattended

Even for quick errands or warming up your vehicle, leaving it running unattended creates an easy opportunity for theft.

7. Report Suspicious Activity

If you notice suspicious behavior, such as individuals checking car door handles or loitering near parked vehicles, report it to your local police station or call the non-emergency line.

8. Install Cameras or Lighting at Home

Motion-activated lights and security cameras can deter theft and provide valuable evidence if a crime occurs.

9. Keep Vehicle Information Updated

Ensure your vehicle registration and VIN records are current. In the event of theft, accurate information helps officers recover your vehicle more quickly.

10. Act Quickly if Your Vehicle is Stolen

If your vehicle is stolen, report it immediately. Provide as much detail as possible, including location, time, and any identifying features.

Community Partnership Matters. Preventing auto theft is a shared responsibility. By staying vigilant and taking these precautions, you play a key role in protecting not only your vehicle but also your neighborhood. Let's stay safe Van Nuys.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

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Greetings residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A19!

Reporting Loud Parties and Unruly Gatherings

As the weather becomes warmer, and more people begin to have private gatherings again it is important to remember the laws pertaining to such gatherings. Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 41.58.1, Loud or Unruly Conduct, violators can be subject to punishment or fines ranging from \$100-\$8,000. A Loud or Unruly Gathering is defined by the Los Angeles City Council Ordinance No. 185451, as: *“A gathering of persons at any residence where loud or unruly conduct occurs at the residence of within 500 feet of the residence, and which threatens or interferes with the public health, safety, or welfare, or the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.”*

To report Loud Gatherings or Unruly Gatherings call the non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK LAPD. Every time a call is created, it creates an incident number that can be referenced later for additional fines or penalties. Also contact your Senior Lead Officer about the activity so that they are aware of the activity. Lastly, LAMC Code 41.58 does not have a time frame and applies to all hours of the day and night. Depending on the call load it may take officers some time to respond so call immediately when the activity begins.

For all traffic related complaints please contact Valley Traffic Officer Daryl Blackhall at 36479@lapd.online. Please indicate the type of violations, location and time of day the violations are occurring.

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

Basic Car 9A23

Officer Robert Sandoval (Interim SLO)

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557

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Hello Basic Car, 9A23 Community, I'd like to introduce myself as the Interim Senior Lead Officer for Basic Car 9A23. My name is Officer Robert Sandoval, I have 10 years with the police department and coming up on 9 years at Van Nuys. I come to you all with enthusiasm, excitement and a hunger to assist with the needs and wants of the community. While at Van Nuys, I have completed various roles such as a Van Nuys Vice operator, assisting with the prostitution problem on the Sepulveda corridor and a Field Training Officer (FTO), assisting the next generation of Police Officers.

Lastly, I'd like to give a little insight on the issues plaguing basic car A23 and how you can help. I've noticed there has been an uptake on vehicle related crimes, which vary from BFMV/TFMV and Grand Theft Autos (GTA). There has been a cluster of GTAs within RD 0923, residences near the Van Nuys corridor. Several vehicles are being targeted within the area which include older model trucks (Chevrolet & GMC) as well as sedans (Kia and Toyota). The method on how these vehicles are being stolen vary, from punch ignition to keys

being left inside the vehicle. Speaking with Van Nuys Auto detectives, the community has been leaving their vehicle keys, key fobs and valet cards (Tesla) inside of vehicles, which has made it easier for individuals to commit these thefts.

However, if you find yourself a victim of a stolen vehicle and your vehicle has been recovered, Van Nuys Auto detectives offer a free steering wheel bar “Club.” Here are some tips and friendly reminders to help prevent your vehicle from being stolen.

Vehicle Security Tips

- Verify the location of your Keys/Key Fobs/Valet Card.
- Install an alarm system.
- Park in well-lit area away from places of concealment.
- Anti-Theft Device (Steering wheel bar “Club”, GPS Tracker, Immobilizers).
- Free software and hardware fixes for owners of Kia/Hyundai.

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

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What is National Police Week?

National Police Week occurs every May, in 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

National Police Week 2026 takes place from May 11–16, 2026, in Washington, D.C., to honor law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Key events include the 38th Annual Candlelight Vigil on May 13, the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, and various survivor support events hosted by Concerns of Police Survivors.

National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America’s law enforcement community. The Los Angeles Police Department will be holding the 2026, Memorial Ceremony, Honoring Our Fallen Los Angeles Police Officers for their Dedicated and Selfless Service to the City of Los Angeles, on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, At 9 O’clock in the Morning at the Los Angeles Police Headquarters Facility, in the Courtyard, 100 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90012.

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, as the weather becomes warmer, and more people begin to have private gatherings again it is important to remember the laws pertaining to such gatherings. Pursuant to Los Angles Municipal

Code (LAMC) Section 41.58.1, Loud or Unruly Conduct, violators can be subject to punishment or fines ranging from \$100-\$8,000. To report Loud Gatherings or Unruly Gatherings call the non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK LAPD. Every time a call is created, it creates an incident number that can be referenced later for additional fines or penalties. Also contact your Senior Lead Officer about the activity so that they are aware of the activity. Lastly, LAMC Code 41.58 does not have a time frame and applies to all hours of the day and night. Depending on the call load it may take officers some time to respond so call immediately when the activity begins.

Also, the most significant property crime is Burglary/ Theft from Motor Vehicle, which is mainly due to two factors: (1) vehicle is unlocked and (2) personal belongings such electronic devices, clothing and other valuables are left in plain view in the vehicles. BFMV and TFMV are crimes of opportunity. It takes only seconds for a thief to walk by, check if you to see if the vehicle is locked and take any items in plain view. This is a reminder to “LOCK IT. HIDE IT. KEEP IT.”

Lastly, I have seen several reports that victims have had their vehicle’s catalytic converters stolen. catalytic converters. Thieves 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.

Protect Your Vehicle Against 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!

I am happy to be back from vacation and training. While I was gone, other Officers assisted you and I am grateful for their help. I look forward to seeing you at meetings and out and about as I patrol my Area. Please don't hesitate to wave or stop me if you have questions or concerns.

Interested in volunteering for the police station? For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Officer Jimenez from our 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 the LAPD background procedures.

Basic Car 9A89

Senior Lead Officer Michael Perez

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Email Address: 35569@lapd.online

Greetings residents and business owners of Sherman Oaks!

This month I will be your Interim Senior Lead Officer for Basic Car 9A89! I look forward to serving the Sherman Oaks community and working with you in resolving your communal issues.

Currently the biggest challenge regarding crime impacting the Sherman Oaks community is commercial and residential burglaries. Between the dates of January 4, 2026, through March 28, 2026 thirty-nine burglaries were reported in Basic Car 9A89. A majority of these were commercial burglaries occurring on the Ventura Blvd Corridor. This month you will see a significant increase in police presence along the Ventura Blvd. Corridor and the residential neighborhoods south of Ventura Blvd. I will be deploying additional officers to provide high visibility patrols in the affected areas and as prevention measure. In several incidents burglars entered residences through an unlocked second story balcony door, ransacked the residence and fled with the victim's property. Please lock and secure all windows and doors prior to leaving your residence and report any suspicious individuals or vehicles in your neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch Before he retired Officer Saldana provided me with a list of 87 neighborhood watch groups within the basic car. I am unsure what groups are still active or how current is this list. Please contact me if you would like to start or re-activate your neighborhood watch.

For all traffic related complaints please contact Valley Traffic Officer Daryl Blackhall at 36479@lapd.online. Please indicate the type of violations, location and time of day the violations are occurring.

I look forward to working with you!