



## ***VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS***

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

November 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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Basic Car 9A5 Officer Brian Franco here. As we enter the season of gratitude, I would like to take a moment to thank our Van Nuys community for your continued trust, support, and partnership. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the blessings we share and the connections that make our city strong. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve each of you and to help ensure that Van Nuys remains a safe and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. This season let's continue to look out for one another and spread kindness throughout our neighborhoods. Here are a few helpful tips for the season.

### **Safety Tips for the Holiday Season**

As we celebrate, please keep these safety reminders in mind:

- Traveling for Thanksgiving? Let a trusted neighbor know your plans and ensure your home is secure.
- Plan ahead and allow extra time for travel — roads may be busy.
- Cooking Safely: Stay in the kitchen while frying or roasting your turkey—unattended cooking is the leading cause of holiday fires.
- Watch for Scams: Be cautious of charity scams and online shopping fraud. Verify organizations before donating or making purchases.
- Drive Sober: If your plans include alcohol, designate a sober driver or use a rideshare service.

Lastly, I want to wish you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful, and joy-filled Thanksgiving holiday, stay safe.

### **Basic Car 9A19**

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

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Greetings residents and business owners in Basic Car A19!

Recently Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez, (Basic Car A41) and Senior Lead Officer Brian Franco, (Basic Car A5) and I met with representatives from Metro and San Fernando Transit Constructors (SFTC) about the construction and installation of the light rail on Van Nuys Blvd. This project will add 14 new stations between the Metro G Line Van Nuys Station and the Sylmar/ San Fernando Metrolink Station. The light rail service along Van Nuys Blvd. will improve access to key destinations, while connecting transient users to the growing network in the San Fernando Valley. During construction of this project the residents and business owners located on Van Nuys Blvd. will be impacted. Heavy construction will begin November 2026 and will be completed by 2031. For additional information or community complaints please contact Metro at [eastsvtransit@metro.net](mailto:eastsvtransit@metro.net) or 818-701-3844.

As we enter the holiday season it is important to remember the laws pertaining to private 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 or unruly gatherings call the non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK LAPD. Every time a call is generated 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. 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**, (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues,) please contact Valley Traffic Officer Daryl Blackhall at [36479@lapd.online](mailto:36479@lapd.online). Please specify the type of violations, the area it's occurring and the time of day.

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

**Community Clean-Up:** Our next community clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025. Location TBD.

### **Basic Car 9A23**

Officer Juan Sierra (Interim SLO)

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Greetings to all the community members of Basic Car 9A23.

I will be replacing Officer Chase Lambert from this point forward as your interim SLO. I began my assignment on October 19, 2025, as the interim SLO. On this day, I had the pleasure of attending the Sherman Oaks Street Fair. This event brought together the community for a day of fun. Everyone enjoyed the diverse food from the food vendors., community members also engaged with local businesses employees at their tents where information and resources were provided to them. The children got to enjoy the face painting and the rides at the event.

I have been a sworn police officer for eighteen years and have served the community of Van Nuys Division since December 2012 and are familiar with Basic Car 9A23. In my assignment as Police Officer III - Training Officer, my goal is to teach and train the future generations of new law enforcement officers to uphold the law and to police our communities with respect for all people and to serve our communities with dignity.

As the Interim Senior Lead Officer, I look forward to working with all of you and to make this upcoming holiday season enjoyable for everyone and to be able to provide available resources to enhance the quality of life for every member of Basic Car 9A23. Working side by side with the community, let's make the holiday season one where we can enjoy the time we spend with family and friends to create long lasting memories.

### **Basic Car 9A37**

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

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Make a difference as a LAPD volunteer and be the change you want to see in your community. Volunteers represent a broad range of ages, from teenagers to senior citizens. Through their dedicated service, volunteers reflect the quality that is representative of the people of Los Angeles and the LAPD. In turn, the Department recognizes the valuable assistance that volunteers provide, and considers them an integral part of the LAPD team.

## **Community Volunteer Application** – *\*Same application for: Volunteers/Interns/CPAB/Boosters/Chaplains*

### **Internship Information**

The Los Angeles Police Department has developed unpaid internship programs with many of the local universities and colleges such as California State University Northridge (CSUN). Students from these universities who are enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program may perform a one- or two-term internship at Community Police Stations, learning about administrative functions and basic detective techniques. In most cases, they work in the Detective Division and spend time in the following units:

- Robbery;
- CAPS (Crimes Against Persons);
- MAC (Major Assault Crimes);
- Juvenile;
- Autos and;
- Burglary

This program has been a positive experience for the students as well as the detective personnel who have had the opportunity to work with them.

### **Reserve Police Officer Program (Volunteer Police Officer)**

One of the most important aspects of the LAPD volunteer program is the diversity of responsibilities that volunteers undertake daily. Volunteers serve as a bridge between officers and civilians as they represent their communities in all aspects of Department-related functions.

If you are interested in starting the application process, please email me at [32914@lapd.online](mailto:32914@lapd.online) and I will send you the application.

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! 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. Also, please continue to be mindful of not leaving valuables inside your vehicles. This will help to reduce your chances of being victimized by the crime of Burglary or Theft from a Motor Vehicle.

### **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, as we approach the holiday season, please stay vigilant and continue to stay alert and report suspicious activity as it relates to residential package thefts. 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.

### **Basic Car 9A63**

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings, Sherman Oaks!

Due to recent state of affairs, I would like to take this opportunity to help clarify some misinformation circulating within the community regarding immigration enforcement.

The Los Angeles Police Department has implemented a new program throughout the City of Los Angeles. Each division now has two Area Immigration Coordinators (AICs) dedicated to building trust within the community. We strongly believe that through education and partnerships, together we can strengthen community confidence and safety.

The Los Angeles Police Department remains committed to enhancing public trust and safety.

Our policy is not to participate in civil immigration enforcement and to protect the immigrant community. Our longstanding directive, since 1979, Special Order 40, prohibits officers from initiating police action solely to determine a person's immigration status or from making arrests for civil immigration violations. The LAPD's role is to ensure public safety and investigate crimes. Any involvement with federal immigration agents is limited to verifying their identities at scenes and maintaining public order — not enforcing federal civil immigration laws.

- **No civil immigration enforcement:** The Department explicitly states it does not investigate or arrest people for civil immigration violations and does not assist in civil immigration operations.
- **Focus on public safety:** Officers respond to all calls to ensure public safety, regardless of a person's immigration status.
- **Limited exceptions:** Officers may inquire about immigration status when necessary to provide victims' services (such as T or U visa information), to investigate serious crimes (such as human trafficking), or when otherwise required by law.
- **Protecting victims and witnesses:** This policy ensures that immigrant victims and witnesses feel safe reporting crimes without fear of deportation.
- **Cooperation with federal agents:** When responding to scenes involving federal immigration agents, LAPD officers are required to verify their identities and ensure they are legitimate before stepping back to a role focused on maintaining order. We do not engage in immigration enforcement activities.

If you would like an Area Immigration Coordinator (AIC) to attend a community meeting to provide further clarification, please reach out to your local Senior Lead Officer to coordinate.

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.

Here are some Holiday Safety Tips to contribute to the safety and security of people during the holiday season:

- Avoid driving alone or at night. Keep all car doors locked, even while driving, and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area. Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- 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 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.

**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.

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. 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.