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.
First and foremost, I would like to introduce myself as the interim Senior Lead Officer assisting Officer Whitey while she is out of the office. My name is Officer Andrew Trock, and while I am new to the role of a Senior Lead Officer, I have been patrolling as an officer in the basic car area of 9A5 in North Van Nuys for many years. I am excited to meet the community and to be able to address quality of life and assist in reducing crime within our neighborhoods.

Now let’s get down to business. Fall is here, which means colder days and longer evenings. Remember to ensure that all vehicle and homes are properly locked and secured each night. The Los Angeles Police Department’s campaign Lock it, Hide it, Keep it is a program designed to educate the community on the importance of personal awareness of property in an effort to reduce vehicle and residential theft.

Finally, Halloween is right around the corner and it is important to remember these basic safety tips to ensure we all have a safe and spooky trick-or-treat evening:

- Be alert for trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Slow down and scan the road in areas where they are likely to be or where sight distances are limited.
- On Halloween there are likely to be more pedestrians on the road and in places where they are not expected. Slower speeds save lives.
- Don’t look at your phone when you are driving. Your attention needs to always be on the road.
- Walk on sidewalks and create a “buddy system” to get each other home safely and prevent walking alone.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, report it to law enforcement.

Hello residents and business owners in Basic Car A19! As the weather gets cooler and we prepare for the Fall season, we are reminded that Halloween is just around the corner. Tragically, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Lack of visibility because of low lighting at night also plays a factor in these incidents. Keep these tips in mind when your children are out on Halloween night:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home and is inspected by an adult.
• All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
• If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.
• Opt for nontoxic Halloween makeup over masks, which can obscure vision; always test makeup in a small area first to see if any irritation develops.
• Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.

Have a safe and fun Halloween season!

Van Nuys Cruiser Night Update
As you know the Van Nuys Cruiser Night events have become very popular since the lifting of the COVID 19 restrictions. Some of you may have been personally impacted by these unsanctioned events and understand the negative impact these events have on the community. The Van Nuys Senior Lead Officers have met with the leaders of the car clubs and ask them to apply for permits for city approved cruise night events, but they have refused. Our position within the Van Nuys Area is that there will be no unsanctioned Cruiser Night Events. Any group attempting to hold such an event, we will conduct zero tolerance enforcement and the organizers will be cited.

Every month the Van Nuys Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) Blight Committee organizes a community clean-up. They concentrate their efforts along the Van Nuys Boulevard Corridor and adjacent streets. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at 35569@lapd.online.

For all traffic related complaints, (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues,) please contact Valley Traffic Officer Phil Benavidez at 32152@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.

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
Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557
E-mail: 38454@lapd.online

Greetings to all my community members of Basic Car Area 9A23. I hope everyone is well and that you are keeping yourself and your families safe.

For this month, I wanted to follow up on a program that we’ve had available since mid-December of last year. The Crisis Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) aka “The Circle Program”. The CIRCLE program provides an unarmed response to non-emergency 9-1-1 calls involving people experiencing homelessness (PEH).

Since December of 2022, the crisis response teams have been available 24/7 to respond to PEH-related non-emergency calls from LAPD’s 911 system and the police non-emergency number. Additionally, proactive embedded response teams are being deployed during the day, seven days a week, in areas of high need within designated communities.
The teams build a rapport with the unhoused community, conduct light sanitation work, de-escalate situations as they arise, and create referrals to local service providers. CIRCLE response staff will does not perform any law enforcement duties.

CIRCLE teams are comprised of one outreach worker, one mental health clinician or licensed behavioral health clinician, and one community ambassador.

On average, CIRCLE is responding to approximately 180 calls a week for various homeless specific issues citywide. Of these, only a small fraction is initiated by community members, the rest are initiated by officers or other entities. So, in addition to contacting CIRCLE via LAPD and to encourage all of you to continue utilizing this resource, I invite you to call CIRCLE’s Citizen Line at (213) 214-2404 as an alternate way of reporting People Experiencing Homelessness.

For homeless encampments, bulky item pick-ups, illegal dumping and other issues of that nature, I strongly suggest you continue to use My LA 311. And if you have any issues with some of these requests not being responded to, please feel free to follow up with me, just please send me the date of your request and the Service Request Number.

Please continue to e-mail, text and me with questions, comments, concerns or anything that you think needs to be brought up to my attention or if there is anything I can do for you. However, please consider that I am not always on duty and that if you need to report a crime please call 911 or the LAPD Non-emergency number at (877) 275-5273.

**Basic Car 9A37**  
Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori  
Cell Phone: (818) 731-2562  
Email Address: [32914@lapd.online](mailto:32914@lapd.online)

Office Delatori is still out. We hope to have an officer on loan to cover her Area. The other SLOs are helping as much as they can.

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 9A41**  
Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez  
Cell Phone: 818-731-2560  
Email Address: [36816@lapd.online](mailto:36816@lapd.online)

Hello basic car 9A41, as we approach Halloween and continue into the holiday season, 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. Both residential and commercial burglaries continue to be a concern, so please review our Burglary crime prevention section to reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Safeguard your home by making sure your residential doors and windows are securely locked when you’re not home. Use an alarm and video surveillance cameras. Also, place signs around your home warning of alarm system and cameras to deter would be thieves.

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. 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.
Remember to “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It.” This works, so please share this with your friends and family! Utilize Nextdoor.com to share information and maintain awareness about what’s going on in your neighborhood.

Lastly, here are some safety tips for the trick or treaters in your family. Wish everyone has a safe and Happy Halloween!

**Top Tips for Halloween Safety:**

- Carry glow sticks or flashlights, use reflective tape or stickers on costumes and bags, and wear light colors to help kids see and be seen by drivers.
- Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating.
- Slow down and be alert! ...
- Remind kids to cross the street at corners or crosswalks.

**Basic Car 9A63**
Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo  
Cell Phone: 818-731-2563  
Email Address: [40229@lapd.online](mailto:40229@lapd.online)

Greetings Sherman Oaks,

We recently had a Smash and Grab Robbery at the Sherman Oaks Fashion Square Mall at the Macy’s Department Store. Northridge Mall had another incident a couple days later. Several individuals charged into the Macy’s and went directly to the cosmetic/beauty department. As the suspects were grabbing items from the shelves, numerous customers hid in fitting rooms and clothing racks, in fear for their safety. Suspects fled the location prior to police arrival. Our Organized Retail Theft Detectives handled the investigation. They were able to connect both Sherman Oaks and Northridge incidents. Two arrests were made. Suspects were arrested for the violent crime of robbery.

A Smash and Grab Robbery Town Hall meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 24, at 10AM at the Sherman Oaks Fashion Square Mall. All are invited.

Having homeless issues in your neighborhood? The Office of Councilmember Nithya Raman has a Homeless Team Outreach. Please email the following individuals to help them provide support.

Hayes Davenport (Senior Advisor) at [hayes.davenport@lacity.org](mailto:hayes.davenport@lacity.org)  
Josh Scarcella (Sr. Homelessness Deputy) at [josh.scarcella@lacity.org](mailto:josh.scarcella@lacity.org)  
Ryan Ahari (Field Deputy) at [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org)

If you feel that City Council’s response is inadequate, you may consider reporting your concerns through other appropriate channels such as emailing Andrea Conant (Chief of Staff) at [andrea.conant@lacity.org](mailto:andrea.conant@lacity.org) and Emma Taylor (District Director) at [emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org)

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  
Cell Phone: 818-731-2565  
Email Address: [30853@lapd.online](mailto:30853@lapd.online)
Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City.

Trick-or-Treating

- A parent or adult should always accompany young children to the door of every house they approach
- Do not permit children to bicycle, rollerblade or skateboard
- Children should use a flashlight with fresh batteries so they can see and be seen by others
- Children should carry a glow stick or wear reflective clothing
- Keep away from open fires and candles
- Children should be warned to NEVER approach any house that is not well lit and does not have a porch or “outside” light on
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk
- Never cut across yards or use alleys

Traffic Safety

- The biggest cause of injury to kids on Halloween night is traffic accidents
- Drive slowly and watch for children crossing the street
- Always walk. Never run across a street
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk
- Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway
- Don’t assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn’t mean others will

After Trick-or-Treating

- All treats are to be thoroughly examined by adults
- Throw away candy if the package is already opened
- Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children
- A good meal before trick-or-treating will discourage children from eating too many Halloween treats

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.