



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

September 2024

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 Cristian Valenzuela

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email Address: 40931@lapd.online

Greeting to all the community members of basic car 9A5. This past month National Night out was hosted in the area of Basic car A5. I had the pleasure of being part of Katherine Square event. The event occurred on August 6 during the evening hours. National Night out started in 1970 in the east coast. National Night out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The event brings together the community for a night of fun with everyone involved. Many good topics of conversation were discussed and concerns also brought up. The good thing was that there were representatives from local and state government agencies in attendance. To conclude the night, the community alongside with the police department walked the neighborhood together. During this great event many more neighbors were introduced to National Night Out, and we hope to see you all next year.

With the new school year started already, it is important to remember to slow down for the school zones. It is the law to slow down in a school zone, but more importantly it helps with avoiding a traffic collision that could result in injuries. With a lot of students walking to school, taking the extra time to leave home could help prevent speeding and distracted driving. You will be seeing more marked LAPD black and white police vehicles around schools, this is due that we are in conjunction with LA School Police working together to address traffic and pedestrian concerns around our schools.

Starting September Officer Vela #38872 will be starting his loan to the position of Senior Lead Officer for basic car A5. He can be reached at the same phone number 818-731-2556 and email is 38872@lapd.online.

For all **traffic related complaints** (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues), please contact Valley Traffic Officer Bryan Ortiz at 41029@lapd.online for traffic related issues. Please specify the type of violations, the area it's occurring and the time of day.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

Email Address: 35569@lapd.online

Hello residents and business owners in Basic Car A19!

Home Occupation Guidelines

The Los Angeles Municipal Code 12.05A 16 LAMC places limitations and restrictions upon residents and occupants which are conducted in the home. This code defines occupations, along with conditions, standards and prohibited uses of the occupants. The prohibited uses are defined as any which disrupts and inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood. Many of the complaints I receive are automotive repair being conducted out of the home or in the street. Automotive repair which includes painting, body fender work, tint installation and vehicle storage in the street is all prohibited. I have also received complaints of tow truck services, restaurant and food services, retail sales and machine shop activity which also prohibited uses of a

home. Please report this activity to me directly or make a complaint through the Los Angeles Department Building and Safety Code Enforcement at ladbs.org.

Community Clean-ups: In partnership with our Community Police Advisory Board Blight Committee a Community Clean-up is organized once a month within my Basic Car Area. If you are interested in participating, please email me at 35569@lapd.online.

For all **traffic related complaints** (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues), please contact Valley Traffic Officer Bryan Ortiz at 41029@lapd.online for traffic related issues. Please specify the 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:

Acting Senior Lead Officer Brian Franco

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557

E-mail: 39273@lapd.online

Hello, my Van Nuys community. Officer Franco here from basic car 9A23. Homeless encampments continue to be a concern for many residents and businesses. I have been receiving several complaints from residents regarding People Experiencing Homelessness in their neighborhoods. I have been working closely with CIRCLE (Crisis and Incident Response through Community-led Engagement) and LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) to offer resources for those in need. The CIRCLE's goal is to improve the City's interactions with and response to unhoused Angelinos and allow LAPD officers to focus on traditional law enforcement efforts. These proactive teams consist of two homeless outreach workers with lived experience. They de-escalate situations, build rapport, and connect unhoused individuals to services. All CIRCLE teams are equipped with vehicles and supplies like water, snacks, clothing, and Narcan to reverse opioid overdoses. LAHSA is the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, which is the regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles County. Their mission is to "drive the collaborative strategic vision to create solutions for the crisis of homelessness grounded in compassion, equity, and inclusion."

Working together with these organizations were trying to assist and house those people experiencing homelessness and get them the resources they need. I make a daily effort to reach out to People Experiencing Homelessness by conducting foot beats and discussing their needs. I provide specific resources to fit each one's individual needs through LAHSA, and Circle.

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2562

Email Address: 32914@lapd.online

Social Life and Social Media - What You Need to Know:

Social connections of the third kind, find out why "third" spaces are critical to our health and well-being.

Third Spaces as the Secret to Social Connection

While creating social connections may not be as easy as it used to be, a special kind of place makes it more likely. 'Third spaces,' a term coined by the sociologist Ray Oldenburg, are places beyond work and home

where we interact freely and casually in our communities. Think of that library where you may get lost in your next favorite read, the group you may volunteer with every week, the community center where you take that workout class, the faith community you lean on for spiritual and emotional support, or the salon with the hairdresser that knows your favorite hairstyles. These are all third spaces. In these places, we feel not only like parents, siblings, or colleagues but like citizens and community members.

- **"Wired to be right"**. Social media sites are designed to keep you hooked, and feeling right is one of the ways we get hooked. Knowing how these sites hit our brains' rewards center- and what to do about it- is critical to mental health, performance, and healthy relationships.

Monthly Challenge & Activities:

- **Set rules** around social media use: such as, no social media one hour before bed or one hour after waking up. Discuss as a family and decide your plan of action.
- **Make it easier** to cut social media: use phone settings to set screen time limits on your social media apps
- Consider a **social media cleanse**, an extended period without use of social media; then, assess the effects afterward. Did your relationships, mood, or activities change?

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 LAPD.ORG

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 36816@lapd.online

Hello basic car 9A41, I have been receiving several complaints from residents regarding people sleeping in their cars over night or parking their vehicles especially RV's in the neighborhood for extended periods of time. So, if you know of anyone living in their car and if you would like to offer some help which would include a safe place to park and sleep, you can refer them to Safe Parking LA.

Safe Parking LA is a safe and legal homelessness intervention to stabilize and connect to resources for people who are living in their vehicles. These programs include access to a restroom facility and secured parking and yes, this includes RV's. You can get in contact with the program by calling or texting (213) 793-8493, emailing info@safeparkingla.org or visiting www.safeparkingla.com. I understand how this could be a nuisance and even frustrating when some vehicle dwellers are being not good neighbors. The City Council only authorizes parking enforcement and the impoundment of vehicles for the following violations.

- Abandoned vehicles:
- Anti-gridlock zones:
- Expired Registration:
- Oversized and Overnight Restrictions:
- Peak hour; and,
- Street Cleaning restrictions.

However, the City Council prohibits the impoundment of vehicles that are inhabited by the homeless. I have been identifying and impounding vehicles for the aforementioned violations. Please report all abandoned and immobilized vehicles to your Senior Lead Officer so they can be removed in a timely manner.

Lastly, remember to utilize The City of Los Angeles MyLA311 non-emergency services. Their mission is to connect people to City Services and Information, quickly and easily, via a communication channel of their choice.

- They provide general City and government-related information to citizens, local businesses, and visitors from various resources including the MyLA311 knowledge base of over 1500 City and government services, City department websites, etc.
- They perform Service Request intake on behalf of the different City Departments.
- They connect people to the appropriate City Department when subject matter experts are needed.

Connect with the MyLA311 mobile app, MyLA311 website, by calling or emailing the MyLA311 Contact Center team, or via social media where you can find @MyLA311 on Twitter and Instagram.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email Address: 40229@lapd.online

Greetings Sherman Oaks! I would like to take this opportunity to bring it back to basics.

When do you call 911?

- Call 911 when a crime is in progress and/or a life-threatening situation requiring the Police, Paramedics or Fire Department.
- Be ready to provide your address, phone number and a brief description of your emergency.
- Examples of emergency calls are: shootings, someone experiencing a heart attack, or a fire.

When do you call the non-emergency number 1-877- ASK-LAPD?

- All other emergencies.
- Examples of non-emergency calls include a loud party, verbal dispute, or public nuisance.

Please do not call your Senior Lead Officer during times of emergency as we do not monitor our City cellphones 24/7.

Reminder: The Los Angeles Police Department has the Community Online Reporting System.

<https://www.lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report/>

Types of Crime Reports That Can Be Filed Online:

- **Harassing Phone Calls:** Any person who repeatedly, with the intent to annoy, telephones or makes contact by means of an electronic communication. For example, immediate hang-ups, obscene language, emails, text messages with no known suspects.
- **Lost Property:** Personal property that was unintentionally left by its true owner. For example, property left behind at an unknown location or left behind with no attempt to retrieve it.
- **Vandalism:** Any person who maliciously damages, destroys or defaces the property of another person. For example, knocking over a mailbox, spray painting a wall, or throwing a rock through a window.

- **Theft:** Personal property taken from a publicly accessible location. For example, a package is taken from your porch; or, you left your wallet behind in a restaurant, but when you attempted to go back to retrieve it, the wallet was no longer there.
- **Theft from Vehicle:** Theft from an unlocked or locked vehicle.
- **Minor Traffic Collisions:** Minor injuries and you have exchanged information
- **Hit and Run:** Damage caused by another vehicle in which the driver should have left information or fled the scene without stopping to provide information.
- **VICE Tips:** Tips may be reported, filer may remain anonymous.
- **Narcotics Tips:** Tips may be reported, filer may remain anonymous.

If your report does not qualify for online reporting criteria, please call our front desk at 818-374-9500. Please be advised that our front desk can get extremely busy. You can also submit a report in-person by walking into the police station at 6240 Sylmar Ave. Our front desk is open 7 days a week, 8AM to 6PM.

Basic Car 9A89

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana
 Cell Phone: 818-731-2565
 Email Address: 30853@lapd.online

Hello Sherman Oaks! I have been getting a number of inquiries regarding noise complaints and vacant buildings, to name a few. Below are some Good Neighbor Laws.

Noise Complaints

Loud or unruly gatherings at residences are considered public nuisances and are prohibited. "Loud or Unruly Gathering" is a gathering of persons at any residence, or within 500 feet of the residence, where loud or unruly conduct (such as public intoxication obstruction of streets, possession and service of alcohol to minors, sale or service of alcohol without a license, urinating in public) occurs. (LAMC 41.48.1).

Construction

Construction in residential areas is limited to the hours of 7AM to 9PM during the week and 8AM to 6PM on Saturdays. It is banned on Sundays. (LAMC 41.40)

LAPD Noise Enforcement Team: 213-996-1250

Home Auto Repair

Other than for minor emergencies, which must be completed within 24 hours, all auto repairs should be done within a building or an area which is entirely enclosed from view by a wall or fence. (LAMC 12.21A1(a), 12.21.21A8(a))

Vacant Buildings

Vacant buildings must be free of trash, debris, hazardous materials, inoperable vehicles, and must be secured against unauthorized entry and fenced. (LAMC 98.0706(a)-(e))

Department of Building and Safety ----- 888-524-2845
Bulky Item Pick-Up, New Trash Cans ----- 800-773-2489
Hazardous Material Pick-Up ----- 800-988-6942
Abandoned Vehicles ----- 800-222-6366

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.