

COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY

BOARD 02/15/2024

This meeting was held in person at the Central Station Conference Room as well as on ZOOM and was recorded. Start time 1005 hours.

Captain III Jovel:

*** Oceanwide Towers Graffiti @ 12th st/ Figueroa:**

- Resources deployed/ extra patrol/ units on fixed post to secure the area.
- Vandalism at location.
- 23 arrests at the location have been made. Majority of arrests have been physical bookings which have been processed vs. citations.
- Ages of the vandalism suspects range from 17-50 years old.
- Towers Vandalism incident has spread on social media and has attracted drones. Citations have been made to any drones seen in the area.
- Drones are prohibited to fly within 5 miles of an airport as well as within 25 ft of other people.
- Due to the vandalism, these same suspects are filtering through other parts of downtown; South Park Area has seen a 300% increase in graffiti and vandalism. Historic Core has seen a 200% increase in graffiti.
- Central Division has been conducting undercover task forces every week to mitigate these crimes. Undercover officers had a multi-2 arrest for Felony Vandalism in the area of Pico/ Flower. Suspects gave statements to officers admitting they came to downtown for the purpose of the Oceanwide Towers graffiti seen on social media. Both suspects were booked at MDC Jail.
- 11 ft fence will be built around the towers. The buildings are not safe due to unfinished construction at the cite. The structure of the buildings are unsafe for people to even walk on so securing the location for the public's safety is crucial.

***Crime Updates:**

- Central Division is #1 division in crime reduction in the entire department compared to 2022.

-Violent crime:

-Central had 29 murders.

-82 people were victims of a shooting.

-277 firearms were recovered within the last year.

-Central Division conducted an operation of Narcotics Sales in the area of skid row and 3 firearms were recovered within a week alone.

-A jeweler who works in the jewelry district was followed home. The jeweler was a victim of a robbery.

-Central has arrested 4 out of the 6 suspects on that incident. 2 suspects are still at large.

Property Crime:

-Central Division is averaging 60 BFMV's a week.

-26 GTA's a week.

-12 Burglaries a week.

Central Division continues to conduct undercover task forces every week to mitigate these crimes.

Copper Wire Theft Update:

-The amount that is being stolen and the damage is costing tax payers millions of dollars.

-Suspects are disguising themselves and construction workers and stealing the copper wire on the 6th st bridge in broad daylight.

-Task forces are being put into place to reduce these crimes and arrest the suspects. There are plans to also follow up with search warrants on these suspects because a lot of the copper wire is being taken to their homes and possibly out of state where they re-sell it.

CTD updates:

-CTD officers are continuing to conduct Task Forces for street racers. Arrests/ citations are still being made.

-CTD had more fatalities than homicides. 326 people were killed due to reckless driving or driving under the influence.

-Over 30 vehicles have been impounded during these street racing task forces.

*Patrol officers are tied up with high level of radio calls, but they still conduct a foot beat when they can, having SLO's especially conduct foot beats and meet with businesses in their area face to face keeping them aware in taking preventative measures for property crimes such as Burglaries, vandalisms and thefts etc.

***Guest Speaker Ben Pak from Detective Bureau:**

Ben Pak works with Detective Bureau regrading hate incidences/ crimes involving the AAPI Community as victims, witnesses, etc.

-Within the last year approx. 11,500 reports of anti-Asian hate crimes/ incidences have been reported throughout 47 states in the U.S. with Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Boston being the top area.

-Los Angeles is 2nd in most reports of hate crimes within the AAPI community among large cities.

-These crimes consist of threats, vandalism, assaults, murders, bombing, etc.

-These crimes had a major spike once Covid-19 hit because people associated Asian Americans with this virus and being the cause of it. They were blaming innocent people, and this is where we saw a major rise in hate crimes / incidences towards the AAPI Community.

-A lot of victims are not reporting these crimes/ incidences that take place due to many reasons: fear, retaliation, not sure if it's a crime or not, language barrier, immigration legal status, etc.

-Encouraging victims/ witnesses to come forward because it is crucial in catching these suspects who are at times repeat offenders.

-Spreading awareness to the public if they are a witness or bystander, if you see something, say something, and if they are unsure to still call and report descriptors of possible suspect because it is the difference for detectives when solving these cases.

-Educating the public on always try to record with their cell phone if possible. Video footage is a crucial aspect for detectives. If they are not able to record, then immediately right down what you saw and heard while its fresh on your mind.

*LAPD went from 10,000 officers to 8,900. The short staff of officers affects the response to these victims.

***Community Events, Q&A:**

Chinese New Year- The Year of the Dragon. Chinatown's Annual Dragon Parade will be taking place Saturday Feb. 17th @ 943 N. Broadway Chinatown Central Plaza.

- Parade will start at 1pm and ends at 4pm.

- Route of the parade will start at Ord st / Hill and conclude on Broadway / Cesar Chavez

- Approx. 5,000- 10,000 people attend.

***Citizens Police Academy:**

- Once a week, every Thursday, starting March 14th & Ends May 9th

- Email Officer Teyechea at 42419@lapd.online for more information and application inquiries.

Meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours.

Meeting was adjourned 1044 hours.