



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

April 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

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email Address: 39273@lapd.online

Basic Car 9A5 Officer Brian Franco here. The Los Angeles Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of the citizens in our community. Impairment, speeding, street racing, and other dangerous driving behaviors jeopardize the safety of other people on the road. We continue to enforce traffic laws with the goal of reducing collisions, educating the citizens in our community, and keeping our community safe. This is achieved through the establishment of preventative patrols to manage specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement strategies are based on collision data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, and traffic conditions. Several methods contribute to our overall goal: arrests, citations, warnings, and education. Through these methods and efforts, we strive to educate our community on the importance of safe driving and we aim to keep our community safe.

Recently, the bus lane was added to Sepulveda Blvd in our area. The scheme, originally introduced on 1 November 2024, aims to improve public transport efficiency and ease congestion on key routes. Traffic congestion on local streets steals valuable time and creates safety issues for all street users, particularly those taking public transit to get to and from home, work, school, businesses, and other key locations. Anyone seen driving the designated bus lane will be cited under, 22650 (a) VC. Which states, a person shall not operate a motor vehicle on a portion of a highway that has been designated for the exclusive use of public transit buses, except in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or official traffic control device.

L.A. Metro says the initiative is part of its ongoing efforts to improve safety and ensure equitable access, as well as enhancing the reliability and speed of bus services, particularly along high-traffic corridors where bus lanes are critical to keeping buses on time. The agency notes blocking bus lanes has a disproportionate impact on bus riders, resulting in delays and disruptions. One vehicle can have an outsized burden on the dozens of riders on each bus, resulting in missed transfers and late arrivals. In addition, for those passengers with mobility challenges, it impacts their ability to easily enter or exit the bus. As a result, violators parked in bus lanes will face a penalty starting at \$293 for illegally parking in designated bus lanes, helping to ensure buses can travel without obstruction and reduce delays for passengers.

So please respect our new designated bus lanes as thousands of Angelenos depend on public transit to get to their jobs, schools, healthcare and other critical destinations.

Thank you for your time, let's stay safe out there.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

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Greetings residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A19! Recently we have received several calls from leaders of various car clubs asking "permission" to bring back the Van Nuys Blvd. Cruiser Night events. As you know these unsanctioned events bring thousands of people into Van Nuys Division causing traffic gridlock, noise, and communal blight. The Van Nuys Area Senior Lead Officers have managed to curb these events since April 2024 with zero-tolerance enforcement. The Los Angeles Police Department will not grant permission for any Cruiser Night Events. If the various car clubs choose to hold an unsanctioned event, a zero-tolerance enforcement action will be taken. This includes Vehicle Code, and Los Angeles Municipal Code Violations. In addition, spectators, participants and leaders hosting the event may also be issued an Administrative Citation (ACE) with stiff monetary penalties.

Neighborhood Watch! On March 8, 2025 a neighborhood watch meeting was held at 6753 Katherine Ave. with the Katherine Circle Group. Fifty-seven residents were in attendance and we discussed the recently rise in burglary related crimes. Neighborhood Watch meetings is a great opportunity to meet your Senior Lead Officer, get updated crime statistics and crime trends and interact with your neighbors. If you are interested in hosting a Neighborhood Watch meeting please feel free to contact me.

Community Clean-ups: Our next community clean up is scheduled for Saturday March 8, 2025. Time and location TBD. If you are interested in participating, please email me at 35569@lapd.online.

Basic Car 9A23:

Senior Lead Officer George Lara

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Welcome to Spring! I hope everyone is well and enjoying this wonderful SoCal weather. This may be my last newsletter to you as your Senior Lead Officer as I get ready to take on other challenges and move forward with my career. I am beyond grateful for all the opportunities and time spent in our amazing community. There have been lessons learned, experiences had and many great memories. Thank you all!

Some quick updates in the area and events that will be taking place in the upcoming weeks:

Come join me for a Coffee with a Cop Event on Tuesday April 1st at the Starbucks located at 7040 Sepulveda Blvd, we will be there from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. We can talk about what is going on in the area, crime updates or just hangout and enjoy a cup of coffee.

Van Nuys Division Vanguard's will be hosting their annual Carnival on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the area of Van Nuys Blvd between Victory Blvd and Kittridge St; Friday from 5:00pm to 11:00 pm, Saturday from 10:00am to 11:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00am to 10:00pm. Guaranteed fun for the whole family. If you are interested in purchasing advanced tickets, please send me a message and I will direct you to where you need to go.

As I get ready to embark on future challenges, I leave you with a quick reminder of some of the tools that have helped me keep the area safe and as clean as possible, no need for much details as I have been talking about these since I took over the position of Senior Lead Officer.

- Lock It! Hide It Keep It!
- MyLA311 Mobile App.
- LAPD Non-Emergency (877) 275-5273.
- CIRCLE Team for unhoused in need of services (877) 275-5273.

Moving forward, you probably would want to know who will be taking on the position of Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for the area. There will be a selection process in the upcoming months, this process involves an interview, a review of the person's qualifications and other administrative considerations.

In order to allow potential candidates, the opportunity to gain some experience as a SLO, there will be a rotation of Interim Senior Lead Officers. Your next Interim SLO is Officer Will Gutierrez. Officer Gutierrez has been an officer in Van Nuys Division for many years and comes to with lots of experience and a strong motivation to assist the community in keeping it safe and improving the overall quality of life in the basic car area.

One thing that will not change is the phone number that you have all been using to get in contact with me. So please continue to call or text (818) 731-2557 with your questions, comments, concerns or anything that you

think needs to be brought up to the attention of the Senior Lead Officer. If you need to send Officer Gutierrez an e-mail, you can do so at 36270@lapd.online

Please consider that the Senior Lead Officer will not always be 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

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Hello Los Angeles Residents! Earth Day is April 22, 2025, do your part. We all can make positive change for this amazing planet we call Earth. The achievements of young changemakers can inspire us all to do our part to help create a better future. April 22, 2025 is Earth Day!

City Plants offers free shade trees to plant in your yard, on private property, and in your parkway, that strip between the sidewalk and the street. If you live or own property in the City of LA, you are eligible to receive free trees from City Plants.

Yard Trees: If you live in the City of Los Angeles, you can receive free trees to plant in your yard! Planting trees in your yard is an easy way to save energy and cool your home. We'll supply you with up to seven free, water-efficient shade trees and deliver them straight to your door, along with stakes, ties, and fertilizer pellets to get your trees started off right.

Street Trees: Are you lacking street trees in front of your home or business? Sign up today and we'll take care of the whole City process of permitting and planting your street trees for you. All you have to do is water them!

Trees for Schools: Trees make students feel welcome and can even help them learn. If you are a principal or plant manager who wants trees, send us your information, and we will connect you to one of our non-profit partners to create a plan, if possible.

Trees for Businesses: Turns out money does grow on trees! Research shows that having trees in front of your business attract more customers, and that customers pay up to 12% more for the same goods when trees are present. City Plants can help! Sign up to request free trees for your business today. Please note that you can only request trees for commercial properties with the permission of the building owner or property manager.

Trees for Apartments & HOAs: Do you want to bring greenery to your apartment building or Homeowners Association? City Plants is excited to now offer our free tree program for the parkway in front of your apartment building.

<https://www.cityplants.org/our-programs/yard-trees/yard-tree-delivery>

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

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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 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.

Lastly, Homeless encampments have been a concern for many residents and businesses. I have been working closely and very diligently with the Urban Alchemy CIRCLE team, Sanitation, and the Council Districts Field Deputies. I want to remind everyone that it is a group effort to help keep our streets clean. If you see any area that has bulky items left (furniture, mattresses etc.), please utilize the **MYLA311** app. This app is a free download, and very easy to use. Please provide as many details as possible to ensure that the appropriate resources are sent to provide the needed services. This will help prevent the items being used by the homeless as their furniture.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings Sherman Oaks,

According to the City of Los Angeles' party house ordinance, an unlawful party is a "loud or unruly gathering," which is defined by:

- Loud noise (audible 150 feet from the property line)
- Obstruction of a street or public right-of-way, including a sidewalk
- Public intoxication or drinking in public
- The service of alcoholic beverages to minors
- Possession and/or consumption of alcohol by minors
- Assault, battery, fights, domestic violence or other disturbances of the peace
- The sale or service of alcoholic beverages without a required license
- Vandalism or destruction of property
- Litter, urinating or defecating in public
- Trespassing

In the event of an unlawful party in your neighborhood, it is imperative of you to officially document this nuisance. The most effective way to document these incidents is by calling 1-877-275-5273. Remember, you can remain anonymous. If you wish for a call back from the dispatched officer, please advise the police dispatcher.

Secondly, contact your Senior Lead Officer. Your Senior Lead Officer will then work with the Los Angeles City Attorney Community Law Corps ("CLC"). The CLC is comprised of attorneys and legal professionals with years of experience in civil and criminal law. The CLC takes preventative and proactive measures to address a variety of issues that affect neighborhoods and establishes partnerships to resolve problems that enforcement, alone, cannot adequately address.

You may also contact CLC by email: att.communitylawcorps@lacity.org or phone: (213) 978-7878

Other Noise Responsibilities

- Gas Leaf Blower ... Bureau of Street Services (213) 847-6000
- Fixed Equipment ... Department of Building & Safety (213) 252-3039
- Animal Complaints ... Animal Regulations (Contact your local animal shelter)
- Aircraft complaints ... Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (faa.gov)
- LAPD Helicopter ... Air Support Division (213) 485-2600
- Movie Sets ... Film LA (213) 977-8600

Any other noise complaints, please contact 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

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.

Home Burglaries Physical Protection Measures:

- Install single cylinder dead-bolt locks on all exterior doors. Bolts should have a minimum throw of 1 inch. Strike plates should have screws that are at least 3 inches long. Doors should be solid hardwood or metal clad. Hinges should be located on the inside or have non-removable pins. Special locks are needed on double doors.
- Install additional locking devices on all sliding glass doors and windows.
- Chain locks are only good for privacy, not security.
- Re-key or change all locks when moving into a new home.
- Install locks on gates, garages, sheds, etc.
- Contact a locksmith or hardware store for advice on locks.
- Reinforce the glass in windows on the lock sides of doors so a burglar cannot break them and reach in to open the door.
- Install a good side-yard gate and keep it locked at all times. Side and back entries are the most common access points for burglars.
- Plant bushes with thorns or prickly leaves near windows and along fences.
- Trim trees so that limbs don't provide access to roofs, second stories, etc.

Deterrent Measures

- Attach Neighborhood Watch and/or Alarm Company stickers on or near entry doors and windows.
- Consider having a dog that can scare a stranger away by either barking or looking fierce.
- Keep an outside dog in a fenced area and have a good lock on the gate.
- Use fencing, gates, landscaping, pavement treatment, signs, etc. to define clear boundaries between your property and adjoining properties.
- Consider Installing a Home Alarm System That Provides 24/7 Monitoring. Alarm systems usually include one or more of the following components:
- Magnetic contacts on doors and windows, heat or motion detectors in interior spaces, glass break detectors, keypads with a means of checking the status of the system, and audible alarms.
- Get alarm company references from friends or neighbors. If your system is monitored, make sure the monitoring station is open 24/7 and has backup power. The company's customer service department should also be open 24/7.
- Inform your insurance company. You may qualify for a discount.
- The system should also have a fail-safe battery backup. Check the batteries periodically and replace them if necessary.

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.