



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



## Message from the Commanding Officer, Devonshire Area

Greetings all,

On January 17, 2012, Devonshire Area hosted the Los Angeles Police Commission Community Meeting at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Northridge. The community attendance was commendable - filled to capacity! City Council member, Mitch Englander, provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Police Commission, and presented two members of the community with certificates of recognition for outstanding service. Police Chief Charlie Beck thanked the crowd for their attendance and said it was the best-attended Police Commission meeting he could remember. He invited community members to speak on the issues that were concerning them, saying, "he was there to listen".

Deputy Chief Jorge Villegas, Commanding Officer, Operations-Valley Bureau, spoke briefly on the crime statistics for the year ending 2011. He said there were 20,000 fewer victims of crimes in the area and Devonshire Division led all divisions in the Valley in crime reduction! Thank you to all who attended and keep a watchful eye in the community.



**Kris E. Pitcher, Captain**  
Commanding Officer  
Devonshire Community Police Station

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**BASIC CAR AREA HIGHLIGHTS**  
SLO Supervisor, Sgt. Ruthann Scott  
(818) 363-1726

**Basic Car Area 17A23**  
Senior Lead Officer Dan Del Valle  
Cell Phone: (818) 634-0362 - 27677@lapd.lacity.org

**Crime Trends and Locations:** Our area experienced an increase of Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (B/TFMV) this past month. The area of concern was from Topanga Canyon Blvd. to Canoga Ave. and Devonshire St. to Chatsworth St. Criminal activity occurred in the late evening to early morning hours. **Most items stolen were left in plain sight.**

**Commendable Officer and Citizen Incidents:** During this past month, Devonshire Narcotics Unit made an outstanding arrest/seizure for sales of marijuana in Chatsworth - closing the last marijuana clinic in Devonshire Area! They worked very hard to abate the pot shops and are commended for their efforts.

I would like to announce that Helen Davis, Chairperson for Basic Car 17A23 has decided to step down. For many years, Helen has been a driving force volunteering her services with

Neighborhood Watch, Volunteer Surveillance Team, graffiti clean-up, and as a Neighborhood Council member, just to name a few. I totally understood when she told me "she needed a break". Helen has done a great job, and **we are truly grateful for her years of service, THANK YOU!!!**

**Crime Tips:** Unattended open garage doors are an attraction to potential thieves. **Please remember to close your garage door if you are not in the immediate area.** It only takes seconds for a thief to walk in and walk off with your property. Mark your valuables with your driver's license number, so law enforcement can attempt to locate a victim if we have a number that can be referenced.

If you would like to rekindle an old Neighborhood Watch, or start a new one, please call me at **(818) 634-0362**.

**Neighborhood Watch Event:**  
**Thursday, March 22, 2012, is the next Neighborhood Watch Meeting for Basic Car 17A23.** Our meetings are held every 4th Thursday of the month at Saint John Eudes Church at 7:00PM, located at 9901 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth.

**Basic Car Area 17A35**  
Senior Lead Officer Dario Del Core  
Cell (818) 634-0577 - E-mail: 27286@lapd.lacity.org

**Crime Trends and Locations:** The "hot topic" is **Residential Burglaries, especially for the areas North of Rinaldi Street.** We recorded an unusually high number of incidents throughout the Basic Car area, between Balboa Blvd. and Tampa Ave.

These Burglaries are occurring during the daytime (generally between 9 AM and 4 PM). The method of operation revolves around an initial door-knock followed by a forced entry from a side or rear window/door. Property taken is jewelry, money, firearms and, at times, electronics. It appears there are several crews (generally made up of at least 2 or 3 individuals) carrying out these burglaries.

**As a reminder, the best way to prevent these crimes is to always remain alert and vigilant with a genuine interest not only in protecting your property, but your neighbors as well.**

**Crime Prevention Information:** **Don't open your door to strangers.** Ask what their business is without opening the door. If they claim they are there to do repairs or maintenance, ask them to leave a copy of the work order outside the door way. Confirm the work order with the legitimate agency before granting access to any serviceman. **Report all prowlers and suspicious activities to the LAPD Direct Dispatch (non-emergency) number at 1-877-275-5273.**

**Neighborhood Watch Event: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 15, 2012, at 7:00PM at Saint Euphrasia Church, 11767 Shoshone Avenue in Granada Hills.**

### Basic Car Area 17A49

Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles

Cell (818) 325-7749 - E-mail: 30392@lapd.lacity.org

**Crime Trends and Locations:** Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (B/TFMV)s was our largest number of crimes for this last month again. The area of San Fernando Mission and the 405 Fwy. had a high number of break-ins; there were a total of 16 between San Fernando Mission Blvd. and Devonshire St., from Louise Ave. to Hayvenhurst Ave. Purses and wallets are still the most common items being stolen. **Please remind your friends, family and neighbors to take those items inside with them when they park their vehicles.**

**Crime Tips:** There has been an increase in "theft by trickery". Suspects call their victims claiming to be a family member. The suspect will tell the victim they have been arrested while in a foreign country and need money wired to them. The victims are sending the money, later finding out they were scammed. If someone calls and asks you to send money, always verify who you are speaking to. Never let anyone pressure you into sending money. Use common sense and ask for names, addresses and call back phone numbers. If you feel something is suspicious, hang up. If you are victimized, contact the LAPD Commercial Crimes Division, Fraud Section at 213-485-3795 for advice and assistance.

**Neighborhood Watch Event:** Our next Basic Car Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at 7:00 PM at Fire Station 87, 10124 Balboa Blvd. Northridge.

### Basic Car Area 17A67

Senior Lead Officer Ignacio Murillo

Cell (818) 634-0495 - E-mail: 34879@lapd.lacity.org

**Crime Trends and Locations:** Basic Car 17A67 is doing pretty well, but we still need to focus on Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (B/TFMV)s. The area of concern is "the Reseda corridor" between Lassen and Chase Streets. We have also seen an increase near CSUN, on Zelzah Ave. between Lassen and Nordhoff Streets. These crimes are taking place in late night to early morning hours.

**Crime Tip:** Be aware of your surroundings! Before you decide to park your car, take that extra moment to look around. Pay attention to who might be loitering in the area. If you see someone who "doesn't look right," it might be a good idea to re-think where you're parking. Make sure you do not decide to park in a place that might make your vehicle an easy target. Find a spot that is clearly visible by you or other patrons.

### Commendable Citizen and Officer Incidents:

Loss Prevention Officers at a local VON'S store observed a male and female team who were stealing a large amount of candy and placed them into custody. Patrol officers arrived and discovered the female suspect was on parole for Carjacking and had an outstanding Parole warrant. The male suspect was also on parole for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and was a fugitive from Texas. Further investigation revealed this team was responsible for multiple burglaries in Devonshire. The suspects are now in jail. **Job well done! Great teamwork!**

### Neighborhood Watch Events:

**Our next Basic Car Meeting will be Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at 7:00 PM at Calahan Elementary School, 18722 Knapp Street, Northridge.**

### Basic Car Area 17A81

Senior Lead Officer Ken Cioffi

Cell: (818) 634-0480 - E-mail: 33691@lapd.lacity.org

**Crime Trends and Locations:** During the period of January 1-28, 2012, Basic Car 17A81 had six Residential Burglaries (RD 1764, 1791 and 1792 each had two) and five Commercial Burglaries (RD 1762 and 1764 each had two and RD 1781 had one). This was a decrease from last reporting period.

Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (B/TFMV) showed we had 26 (RD's 1764 and 1791 each had six, RD 1781 had five, RD's 1782 and 1792 each had three, RD 1772 had two and RD 1771 had one). This was an increase from last report.

**Neighborhood Watch Event:** Our next Basic Car Meeting is Thursday, March 15, 2012, at 7:00 PM at 19451 Londelius St. (Gianelli Square) located on Northeast Corner of Londelius & Shirley.

**Crime Tips:** We are always told not to leave valuables in our vehicles to prevent B/TFMV from occurring. However, with identity theft on the rise, we generally do not think to remove paperwork from inside our vehicles. **Please do not leave anything in your vehicles that would compromise your identity such as bank statements, social security information, credit card statements or anything with information on it that you do not want someone to have.**

### Basic Car Area 17A95

Senior Lead Officer Kate Luna

Cell (818) 634-0579 - E-mail: 35589@lapd.lacity.org

### Crime Trends and Locations:

We have not had any specific crime clusters in 17A95. We did have an Assault with a Deadly Weapon occur in the area of Balboa and Roscoe Blvd. Three individuals were stabbed during a fight in the early morning hours. **Use caution and be aware of your surroundings at all times.**

### Crime Tips:

**"THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU" (continued from February)**

1. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway and I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
2. Have your car parked in the driveway? I will use the garage door opener in your car; it activates the garage door – even when the car ignition is off. So you may want to turn your garage door opener (power) off from inside the garage when you're home.
3. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

Take a moment to look around the outside of your house and see if you can find something you can do to safeguard against a burglar. Share this information with family and friends. If you would like a complete list of "burglar tips", I will have copies available at my next meeting.

### Neighborhood Watch Events:

**The next Basic Car meeting will be on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 7:00 PM at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17037 Plummer Street, Northridge.**