



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

*Have A
Safe And Happy
Spring Holiday Season!*



Inside This Issue:

- *An LAPD News Release***
- *Crime Trends***
- *Crime Tips***
- *Community Events***

SOUTHWEST

**1546 W. MARTIN LUTHER KING BL.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90062
(213) 485-2584**

AREA COMMANDING OFFICER

MELISSA A. ZAK, CAPTAIN III

PATROL COMMANDING OFFICER

GERALD A. WOODYARD, CAPTAIN I

NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH

(213) 928-8223

NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH

SPANISH

(213) 928-8222

EMERGENCY DISPATCH

911

SOUTHWEST DIVISION CRIME TIP

(213) 485-7492

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE

(213) 847-5800

SENIOR LEAD OFFICER DIRECTORY

**SERGEANT-IN-CHARGE
SGT II MARK GREEN
213/847-5800**

3A1-ADAMS BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER SERGIO SANCHEZ
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9615
EMAIL: 25832@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A15-WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER TRACY HAUTER
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9617
EMAIL: 35896@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A19-NORTH UNIVERSITY PARK
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER GERALDINE VAZQUEZ
CELL PHONE: 213/924-5231
EMAIL: 37098@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A31-JEFFERSON PARK
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER JOHN BIONDO
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9622
EMAIL: 36576@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A41-BALWIN HILLS/VISTA; VILLAGE GREEN
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER KEVAN BEARD
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9621
EMAIL: 35841@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A55-WESTERN CORRIDOR; JEFFERSON PARK
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER PIERRE OLEGA
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9619
EMAIL: 35919@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A57-UNIVERSITY VILLAGE
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER SAM SALAZAR
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9616
EMAIL: 31256@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A63-BALDWIN VILLAGE
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER JOSE SALDANA
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9614
EMAIL: 36870@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A73-LEIMERT PARK; CRENSHAW CORRIDOR
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER SUNNY SASAJIMA
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9618
EMAIL: 37508@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

3A99-VERMONT SQUARE
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER SEAN ANDERSON
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9623
EMAIL: 35839@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

CRENSHAW PLAZA
POLICE OFFICER III THOMAS ROGERS
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9624
EMAIL: 23236@LAPD.LACITY.ORG

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SENIOR LEAD OFFICER NICHOL GARNER
CELL PHONE: 323/387-9620
EMAIL: 32272@LAPD.LACITY.ORG



Community awareness is the key to crime prevention. If you are interested in establishing a Block Club in your area, please contact your Senior Lead Officer for assistance.

Los Angeles Police Department News Release

January 31, 2012



NR12053mjf

LAPD STATEMENT REGARDING LINCOLN HEIGHTS MURDER

Los Angeles: LAPD officials have received a number of calls from the media regarding a possible link between two missing women who have been discovered to have been murdered after their disappearance.

Since the body of a female victim was discovered on January 26, 2012, on the southbound Glendale freeway on-ramp from Riverside Drive. In the Northeast Area, there has been intense media coverage suggesting that this found female victim is somehow related to the Hollenbeck Area murder of 17 year-old Michelle Lozano whose body was found dumped alongside the southbound I-5 Freeway at the Cesar Chavez off-ramp on April 25, 2011.

Robbery-Homicide Division and Hollenbeck Area homicide detectives continue to meet and compare details relative to their respective cases. At this time, Robbery-Homicide Division does not believe the two cases are related.

As of today, the body found on January 26, 2012 has yet to be identified by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

The Lincoln Heights community has expressed great concern about several males in a white van kidnapping young ladies from the street and strongly believes this white van is related to the two murders. Robbery-Homicide Division Detectives have investigated numerous leads involving this vehicle, all of which have not been corroborated. It appears that the information has been released via social media and often times contain second and third hand information. Furthermore, a composite sketch of a possible suspect was also released through outside sources not related to the police department. The Los Angeles Police Department has not released any composite sketches of any suspects involving these two cases. If there is a victim, or witness, who has specific information about any vehicles involved in possible kidnaps, please contact the Los Angeles Police Department, Robbery-Homicide Division as soon as possible.

Anyone with information regarding either of these crimes is asked to call LAPD Robbery Homicide Division Detectives Carillo or King at (213) 486-6890. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (1-877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous should call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477). Tipsters may also contact Crime Stoppers by texting to phone number 274637 (C-R-I-M-E-S on most keypads) with a cell phone. All text messages should begin with the letters "LAPD." Tipsters may also go to LAPDOnline.org, click on "web tips" and follow the prompts.

CRIME AND ARREST INFORMATION

Officers in Southwest Division have been working extremely hard to reduce crime, provide a safe environment and a better quality of life for the residents and business owners of the Southwest Area.

3SLO1-ADAMS BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

In the second month of the year, the Adams Boulevard Neighborhood has had considerably low crime in all categories. There were no reported crime clusters of 5 or more crimes in any section. There has been an up-tick in Residential burglaries along the Rodeo corridor. Please remember to secure your residences when you leave for the day and if you go on vacation please notify your SLO so that extra patrol can be arranged for your area.

Crime Tips-Crime Prevention for Small Businesses

Crimes of burglary, robbery, vandalism, shoplifting, employee theft, and fraud cost businesses billions of dollars each year. Crime can be particularly devastating to small businesses, which lose customers and employees when crime and fear claim a neighborhood.

When small businesses are victims of crime, they often react by changing their hours of operation, raising their prices to cover their losses, relocating outside the community, or simply closing. Fear of crime isolates businesses, much like fear isolates individuals—and this isolation increases vulnerability to crime.

Helping small businesses reduce and prevent crime must be a community effort. Law enforcement can work with owners to improve security and design commercial spaces to reduce risk.

Small businesses can join together and establish a Business Watch to alert each other to crime patterns and suspicious activities. They can help young people in the community learn job-seeking skills and employ them when possible.

Finally, businesses must reach out to others—law enforcement, civic groups, schools, churches, youth groups—to fight violence, drugs, and other crime and create a safer community for all.

3SLO15-WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officers Hauter and Biondo are teaming up to combat the Grand Theft Auto problem in the West Adams and Jefferson Park areas. Please make sure if you see anything suspicious, that you call your Senior Lead Officer. Make sure you lock your vehicles at night, and park in well-lit areas.

Special thanks to all of the West Adams Community members who attended Senior Lead Officer Hauter's prostitution meeting on February 21, 2012. There was a wonderful turn out!



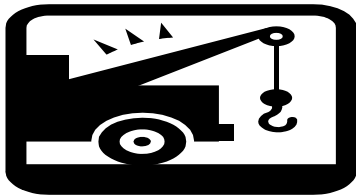
(Above photo: LAPD Captain Melissa Zak, Council District 8 North Area Representative Cathy Davis, City Attorney Sharee Sanders Gordon, and LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tracy Hauter answered community questions at the meeting on February 21st at FAME Renaissance).

Those in attendance were advised to “take the community back!” by SLO Hauter. SLO Hauter emphasized that the public comments portion of the meeting was not a “gripping” session, but a time for those affected to share important suggestions.

3A31-JEFFERSON PARK

Crime Trends

It has come to the attention of SLO Biondo that citizens are being victimized by illegitimate or "bandit" tow operators. While the vast majority of tow operators are honest and provide ethical, fair service, a growing number are engaging in predatory behavior, preying on innocent motorists and scamming them out of hundreds if not thousands of dollars. These individuals troll parking lots looking for parking violations so that they can tow vehicles away. To make matters worse, these unscrupulous towing companies often target the individuals who can least afford to pay. If you are a victim of a "bandit" tow truck operator, consider these tips:



- *Know the local laws concerning towing procedures.*
- *Do not leave the property of the business where you are parked. This is easier said than done but if a bandit tow truck operator is watching that particular parking lot, and sees you leave, your vehicle could be hooked up and towed away in minutes.*
- *If you think you are the victim of a towing scam take the time to fill out a police report. If you just let it go not only are you out hundreds of dollars but the bandit tower can continue to prey on people. So do your part to fight these scams and get your report filed with the police!*
- *For further information or assistance or to report a tow company, contact the Commission Investigation Division, which is the regulatory arm of the Board of Police Commissioners. They are the ones who*

oversee permitted businesses, (including tow companies) in Los Angeles. They can be reached at (213) 236-1400

Crime Tip-Staged Traffic Collisions

Anyone who has ever been involved in a vehicle collision knows they are traumatic for everyone involved. However, how would you feel if you discovered a collision you were involved in was not an accident? Some collisions are in fact "staged," and are "criminal conspiracies" involving "numerous suspects." The criminals involved in this crime are intentionally placing motorists and their passengers in harm's way and at extreme risk by staging collisions for their own financial greed. In 1997, according to the California Highway Patrol, there were approximately 132,000 vehicle collisions in the County of Los Angeles. Over the last three years, there were approximately 135,000 vehicle collisions in the City of Los Angeles. As these vehicle collisions increase in the County and City of Los Angeles, odds become greater that unsuspecting motorists and their passengers could become involved in a staged collision crime.

The most common types of staged collisions motorists will be exposed to are the "Swoop and Squat" and the "Drive Down." The "Drive Down" is also known as the "Wave On." In the "Swoop and Squat" criminals maneuver their vehicle in front of a targeted vehicle and slam on the brakes. By making this radical maneuver, the criminals are attempting to cause the targeted vehicle to collide with the rear of their vehicle and create an accident (staged collision) where the targeted vehicle appears to be at fault. The "Drive Down" or "Wave On" involves a situation where a targeted vehicle does not have the right-of-way and criminals gesture or "wave" to the targeted motorist offering the opportunity to proceed ahead of them. When the targeted vehicle proceeds, the criminals purposely drive their vehicle into the targeted vehicle creating an accident (staged collision) attempting to make it appear the targeted vehicle is at fault.

DRIVING TIPS

The LAPD, Financial Crimes Division (FCD), suggests the following valuable tips to protect motorists from staged collisions:



If you are involved in a collision on a busy street or highway, your first thought should be your safety and the safety of your passengers. If possible, remove your vehicle from the traffic lanes. Before removing your vehicle make sure you inform the other motorist involved that you are removing your vehicle for safety reasons and are not attempting to leave the scene of the accident and are not a hit-and run driver.

Once you and your passengers are in a safe place, exchange information with the other motorist involved. Also, be aware of persons at the scene of the collision who might be potential witnesses. Approach these persons and try to obtain a statement from them of what they saw. Also write down their individual names, addresses and telephone numbers for future reference.

Carry a disposable camera in the glove compartment of your vehicle. Take as many pictures of the other vehicle and its passengers as possible. This will help the LAPD detectives investigate your collision case.

If you think you have been involved in a staged collision make sure to count the number of passengers in the other vehicle. If possible, get their individual names, addresses, telephone numbers and driver license numbers. Often more people will file

claims than were in the vehicle when the collision occurred.

Fully insured motorists, driving alone, are the favorite targets of criminals involved in staged collisions. Criminals involved in staged collisions prefer "lone drivers" because "passengers" make good witnesses. Luxury and commercial vehicles are often targeted because they offer the promise of extensive insurance coverage.

When driving, be aware of other vehicles around you. Always allow ample space between you and the vehicle in front of you. Look beyond the vehicle in front of you. If you see a vehicle slowing down in front of you, begin to slow down also.

Be very careful when turning from a lane that allows two vehicles to turn simultaneously. Criminals who commit staged collisions often prey on vehicles that cross the centerline, purposely sideswiping a targeted vehicle.

Often, "phony witnesses" are positioned near the scene of the staged collision to support the involved criminal's account and to contradict the innocent driver's account of what actually happened. In some instances, criminals inflict injury upon themselves or claim "hard to dispute" soft-tissue injuries in order to collect on insurance claims.

If you suspect you have been involved in a staged collision immediately report the crime to the LAPD.

Driving is a full time job. You can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a staged collision if you apply the aforementioned tips, adhere to the rules of the road and always drive defensively.

Helpful Numbers At A Glance

Graffiti Removal:
(311)

Abandoned Vehicles:
(800/222-6366)

**Bulky Item Trash Pick Up (Illegally
Dumped Trash):**
(800/773-2489)

Department of Health:
(213/351-5110)

Citywide information:
(311)



3SLO57-UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

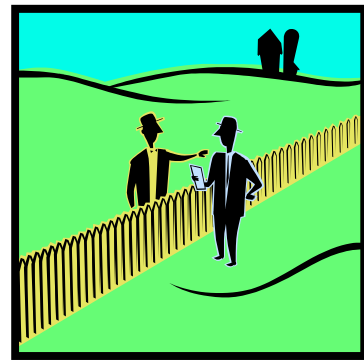
Crime Trends

During the last few weeks of February there was an increase in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles in the area. The affected area was along Flower Street between Exposition Blvd and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Due to the increase, "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it" flyers were distributed. Managers of local apartment complexes were advised of the problem and requested to pass out flyers to the tenants. Extra patrol was provided in the area. There was an arrest of a neighborhood transient recently. Since that arrest, from 02-25-12 to 03-08, the affected area has had zero incidents.

Crime Tips-Residential Burglary Awareness

To reduce the chance of your property being burglarized, consider these preventative measures:

- *Keep shrubs and trees trimmed. Foliage that provides privacy for your home also allows criminals to attack your property unnoticed and undisturbed.*
- *Each day take the time to double check that all doors and windows are locked/secured before leaving.*
- *Consider an alarm, especially one that is linked with a monitoring service. If you opt to place an alarm in your home, be sure you obtain an alarm permit from the City.*
- *Consider installing more lighting around your property. Purchasing lighting with timers and/or motion sensors will negate the necessity of remembering to turn on/off lighting.*
- *Remember to make arrangements to have mail picked up and newspaper service suspended. Uncollected mail/newspapers can be a sign to would-be burglars that a residence is unoccupied.*
- *Network with neighbors. Consider having someone you trust keep an eye on your residence when you are away. Ask them to immediately report any suspicious activity or persons to the police.*



3SLO73-LEIMERT PARK/ CRENSHAW CORRIDOR

Crime Trends

The month of March started on a bad note with 9 residential burglaries reported in the first full week. The majority of these incidents occurred in the late evening/early morning hours and the garage was targeted by the suspect(s). Items taken were food, alcohol, tools and bicycles. This trend led us to believe that the crimes were being committed by transients in the area. As such, efforts have been made in the area to document transient activity and attempt to identify the suspect(s). Additionally, assistance has been requested from LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) to provide outreach to the transients in an effort to rid the neighborhood of the nuisance that is created by homeless and motor home encampments.



In response to concerns regarding activity along Crenshaw Blvd., Business Watches have been organized by the Senior Lead Officers to provide Business and Property Owners with information and resources to address their issues. Residents are encouraged to join their local neighborhood watch or block clubs as they provide a good resource for information on activity in each neighborhood. For information on existing block clubs, or information on how to start one, please contact SLO Sasajima at 213-847-5800.

The LAPD is also accepting anonymous tips via cell phone. You can text your tip to CRIMES (274637). Begin your message with the letters, "LAPD".

Crime Tips-Loitering

Don't allow loitering. Loitering simply means people hanging around your place of business, inside or outside, without buying anything. Loitering is a serious problem, if left unchecked, it can:

Discourage customers from coming to your place of business.

Lead to harassment and other problems.

Create a bad image for your business.

Take action against loitering. Remember the following:

You may need to take action when you first observe a potential problem develop, don't wait until a group gets larger or violence occurs.

Be sure you have a good view of the parking lot, and keep it clean.

See that "no loitering" and "parking restriction" signs are posted.

Politely speak to the person loitering, but never leave your business unattended to go outside.

Never place yourself in an unsafe situation. Call the police, if the person continues loitering.

3SLO99-VERMONT SQUARE

Crime Tips-Reporting a Crime by Text

If you have a crime you would like to report anonymously you can now text the letters LAPD plus your tip to #274637. You can also call 877-LAPD-24-7.



Have you heard about the Southwest Teen Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB)?

The Los Angeles Police Department Southwest Area Teen Community-Police Advisory Board (Teen C-PAB) was established as a forum for area youth to advise and discuss public safety issues with the Commanding Officer and community police officers of the Southwest Area. Teen C-PAB focuses on quality of life issues and concerns from the perspectives of the youth in our community.

The members meet monthly and participate in special events and projects including community service clean-ups, holiday toy give-aways and potlucks, city-wide benefit walks and field trips.

Meetings are held at Southwest Area on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 1:30 P.M. **The next meeting will be held on April 26, 2012.** Please contact Ofcr Paul Evleth or Management Analyst II Denise K. Smith at (213) 847-5800 for further details about Teen C-PAB.

Please come out to support our...



**On: Saturday, April 21, 2012
8 A.M. to 3 P.M.**

1561 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

**(Northwest corner of LaSalle at
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard;
Across from Southwest Station)**

Donation of household items for the sale will be accepted at Southwest Station prior to April 21st. Contact: Officer Paul Evleth at Southwest Community Relations Office, (213) 847-5800.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EVENTS

The Wisconsin Street Block Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm and the University Gardens Block Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. For additional information, contact SLO Salazar at (323) 387-9617.

The Southwest monthly C-PAB (Townhall) meeting will be held on Monday, April 2, 2012, 6:30 pm at Transfiguration Catholic Church, 2515 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For additional information, contact Senior Lead Officer Sunny Sasajima or Police Service Representative II Toni Rodgers at (213) 847-5800.

Farmers Market

The Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza proudly welcomes the Crenshaw Farmers Market. The Farmers Market will be held in the parking lot near Stocker and Santa Rosalia from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday.



**Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please consult with your Senior Lead Officer prior to attending any listed event.*

follow us on
twitter



@ LAPD_SOUTHWEST

**You can prevent Burglary from Motor Vehicle and Vehicle theft!
Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily.**

**You can increase your protection against this type of crime
by taking the following sensible precautions:**



The message is simple:

Lock It:

**Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended
and always lock your valuables in the trunk.**

Hide It:

**If you don't have a trunk, hide valuables under the seats,
in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle.**

Keep It:

**Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard
personal property and to prevent becoming a victim.**