

Topanga CPAB Meeting
September 2, 2009
21501 Schoenborn Street
Canoga Park, CA. 91304

- I. Greeting/Social Time.
- II. 1900 Hours – Call to order by Siena Cawelti, CPAB Co-Chair.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bud Cashen.
- IV. Introductions – Captain Sherman introduced: SLO/CRO OIC Sergeant Desi Ehrlich, Sergeant Rachel Raigoza, SLO Brent Rygh, the newest SLO Dennis Cunningham, Officer Larry Wright, Probationary Officer Hamada, and Ms. Ayala Feiman of the City Attorneys Office.
- V. Neighborhood Prosecutor Program – Captain Sherman introduced Ms. Ayala Feiman of the City Attorney’s Office, assigned to the Topanga Station, to describe the neighborhood prosecutor’s program. City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo started this program. The objective of the program is to work with LAPD and other community organizations to learn about the quality of life issues within the communities and to find solutions to address these problems. She mentioned that they depend on input from the public, because the public is the eyes and ears of the community. Ms. Feiman provided her direct line number (818) 374-6836.
- VI. The minutes were approved.
- VII. Topic/Guest Speaker - **Overview of Dispute Resolution Program** – *Bill Turner and Richard Neiderberg*. A dispute resolution program pamphlet was passed out. This program is free to the public and is funded by public donations. The goal of the program is to avoid using the time of the police officers for disputes that are not necessarily breaking the law, but to resolve small civil disputes, such as barking dogs, lights shining over the fence, landlord/tenant disputes, vendor disputes; basically non-criminal stuff. The program has 1800 mediators and they undertake 100’s of cases per month. The dispute resolution program attempts to resolve the disputes prior to pre-filing, that is, before lawyers get involved. The dispute resolution process is confidential, legal, and binding. The email address is mediate@lacity.org and the telephone number is (213) 485-8324.
- VIII. Topic/Guest Speaker - **Recent Burglaries impacting Topanga Area/ SLO Dennis Cunningham**. Captain Sherman introduced SLO Dennis Cunningham, as an extremely sharp street cop who recently arrested a white supremacist. SLO Dennis Cunningham discussed the recent rash of burglaries in the West Hills/Woodland Hills area and specifically talked about a couple of burglars (two black males). He mentioned that a baby blue Cadillac STS with a sun roof has

been used in robberies. He mentioned that it very important to look out for one another, especially if you see strangers in your neighborhood. He mentioned that a video surveillance camera is a great deterrent and important to keep the cameras visible. If you have a house with an alley, keep the alley lighted or have motion lights. There have been random vandalism taking place in West Hills; throwing stones and breaking car windows, etc. Captain Sherman described the benefits of e-policing. You can sign up on the LAPD website, www.lapdonline.org. The non-emergency dispatch line is 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273).

IX. Crime Update/Discussion of Crime Statistics - Captain Sherman briefly discussed the crime statistics and passed out a crime statistics sheet. Captain Sherman mentioned that the State has legalized the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The City allows legal dispensing of marijuana. Councilman Zine is leading an effort in the City Council to regulate these dispensaries. There are 40 such businesses in the Topanga Police Station area. Captain Sherman plans to have this on the agenda in a future CPAB meeting. Captain Sherman introduced Stephanie from Councilman Zine's office. Captain Sherman wanted to know how the members thought Topanga was doing overall with their service to the community. CPAB members provided a positive feedback for the policing services provided by the Topanga Police Station.

X. Membership Information Close Meeting –

- Siena passed out a flyer regarding the Los Angeles Police Commission meetings to be held throughout the city over the next few weeks. The purpose of the meetings is to receive public input towards the selection of the next LAPD Chief of Police.
- Siena mentioned that a fun filled Boosters event is planned at the Hilton on November 20, 2009 and that CPAB members should support it. It is not a black tie event but dressy or business attire. The cost is \$55 (tax deductible) per person and is a fund raising event for the Topanga Station and Officers.
- Siena mentioned that CPAB members have gotten a bit lax with the CPAB project, "the CAT II/Call Backs". Although we started of very gung-ho, recently there has not been much support for the project. Siena's direct line is (818) 756-3077 or (818) 970-6955. Siena requested CPAB members support this project since it really helps the detectives and the victims are very grateful for the information.
- Please email Siena topics of interest for future meetings. Her email is R6186@lapd.lacity.org .
- Sergeant Rachel Raigoza mentioned the Grateful Hearts event on October 15, 2009 from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. This event will benefit the LA Fire and the Police Department. David, President of the Topanga Youth Board, has scheduled a fund raiser meeting on September 16, 2009. Please contact David at (818) 449-8903 if you would like to assist David in this effort.

XI. Siena announced the **next meeting date of October 7, 2009.**