

Southwest



Volume 02, Issue 1

January 2010

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year, Southwest Division celebrates the mosaic silhouette of this community.

This month, we will celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday on January 18, 2010. This is a day to celebrate the legacy of a man who represents principles that are important to all of us. Freedom, justice, equality, and the pursuit of happiness are values that are relevant to everyone. No matter what your ethnicity or religious background, we all value the same civil liberties.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is also *a national day of service*. It's a rewarding opportunity to volunteer your time for the benefit of someone other than yourself. In the spirit of community policing, the Los Angeles Police Department welcomes volunteers of all ages. Southwest Division is proud to have worked with a broad range of people from teenagers to senior citizens. The assistance they provide has proven to be an invaluable asset to this Department.

Southwest is a wonderfully diverse area. It does offer its share of unique challenges, however I, along with officers of this division, could not be prouder to work and serve the people of this community.

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Commanding Officer
Southwest Community Police Station
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SOUTHWEST

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PATROL COMMANDING OFFICER

ARTHUR J. MILLER, CAPTAIN I

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NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH

SPANISH

(213)928-8222

EMERGENCY DISPATCH

911

SOUTHWEST DIVISION CRIME TIP

(213)485-7492

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CRIME PREVENTION

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.



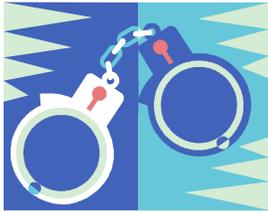
CRIME AND ARREST INFORMATION

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

3SLO15-WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

Happy New Year to everyone in the West Adams Neighborhood! Senior Lead Officer Hauter reports that there is good news for this community. Thanks to the hard work of Southwest Officers and community involvement, overall crime in this area is still down.



Unfortunately, there were several reports of prostitution in the area of Hobart and 29th Street. During the month of December, after receiving numerous complaints from community members, Officer Hauter sprung into action in an attempt to rid this problematic issue from the community. As a result, Southwest made several arrests for prostitution. SLO Hauter extends a special thanks to the Southwest VICE officers who helped to make a difference on this block.

3SLO19-NORTH UNIVERSITY PARK

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer Salazar reports that during the final weeks of December, there has been an uptick in street Robbery crimes along Vermont Avenue between Adams Boulevard and Jefferson Boulevard. These crimes are being committed primarily during

evening hours. Suspects are described only as African American males, between the ages of 18-25. Please remember to be aware of your surrounding and try to walk in groups.

Crime Tips-Neighborhood Watch

Getting Together to Fight Crime

Something may be wrong in your neighborhood. There's too much violence, or there's an ever-present threat. Perhaps a child you know was robbed. Maybe you've seen signs of drug dealing. Maybe a string of break-ins has you wondering what's coming next. You're uneasy—even frightened—for yourself and your family. Perhaps nothing violent has happened, but you see warning signs—such as graffiti, vandalism, abandoned cars, loitering, and litter. These are all indicators that crime and violence may penetrate your neighborhood soon.

You can change things by getting together with neighbors who share your worries. There are two things you need to do: look out for your family and yourself, and also get involved in your community.

Getting Neighbors Together

You've already talked with some neighbors—at the grocery store, on the sidewalk, over the back fence, at the bus stop, across the kitchen table. You know people are unhappy about the way things are, that they'd like to see something done.

The next step—make that discussion a bit more purposeful and organized. Set up a meeting to decide how you want to change things.



Please contact Senior Lead Officer Salazar at 323/387-9616 if you would like to start up any new block clubs in your area.

3SLO31-JEFFERSON PARK

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer Biondo reports that business robberies continue to plague Southwest Division. A number of businesses throughout the community have been victimized. However, gang officers as well as detectives made a significant arrest shortly after a Metro PCS cell phone store was robbed at gunpoint. Due to outstanding and cooperative follow-up work by detectives in Southwest and surrounding divisions, Rolling 20 gang members were arrested for that crime and other business robberies in Southwest, 77th, Pacific and Olympic Divisions.



As a reminder to the Jefferson Park community, there is help for those dealing with graffiti in the area. If you see graffiti or bulky items discarded, especially in alleys, contact 3-1-1 for removal. You'll be given

a reference number. Keep this number handy as if the request is not completed in a timely manner, you can forward the location and reference number to me and I can follow-up with the appropriate city department.

Finally, as you embark into a New Year and decade, Senior Lead Officer Biondo hopes that each of you will be safe, happy and prosperous in 2010.

Crime Tips-Volunteer Opportunities

LAPD employees are proud to serve alongside over 3,000 volunteers who donate more than 20,000 hours of service each month. Volunteers represent a broad range of ages; from teenagers to senior citizens (approximately 300 volunteers are over the age of 70). Through their dedicated service, volunteers reflect the quality that is representative of the people of Los Angeles and the LAPD. In turn, the Department recognizes the valuable assistance that volunteers provide, and considers them as an integral part of the LAPD team. One of the most important aspects of the LAPD volunteer program is the diversity of responsibilities that volunteers undertake on a daily basis. Volunteers create and maintain a delicate balance in the Department by providing essential services in both sworn and civilian-related duties. In this way, volunteers serve as a bridge between officers and civilians as they represent their communities in all aspects of Department-related functions. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with this Department, please click on the following links for additional information:

- [Volunteer Programs](#)
- [How to Become an LAPD Volunteer](#)
- [Internship Opportunities](#)

[Reserve Police Officer Program \(Volunteer Officer\)](#)

3SLO41-BALWIN HILLS/VISTA AND VILLAGE GREEN

Crime Trends

At the start of a new year, it is important that we all focus on doing the proper things to avoid becoming a victim of crime. Let's start by looking out for one another. Senior Lead Officer Beard suggests that locking the doors and windows to your home will make it that much more difficult for someone to break in. This will help to decrease the chances of becoming a victim of crime.

Crime Tips- Winter Driving Tips

Being that the winter is currently upon us and the weather may begin to change, Senior Lead Officer Beard has listed several tips for driving in wet weather.

Wiper Blades

Make sure you have plenty of washer fluid and be certain the washer reservoir is full. Now is also the time to inspect your wiper blades and replace them if necessary.

Headlights

Make sure your headlights are working properly and check both the high and low beams. This is also a good time to check your turn signals to be certain all bulbs are working correctly. When it's raining – even in daylight hours - remember to drive with your low beam headlights on, making it easier for other motorists to see you.

Tires

Making sure tires are in good condition and are properly inflated. Remember: Worn treads and low tire pressure can increase the risk of your vehicle hydroplaning on wet roads.

Brakes

Be certain vehicle brakes are working correctly by tapping them lightly. Never slam on the brakes while driving in the rain or on wet roads.

Be Aware

Tune your car radio to your local news station for the latest weather reports and updates on road closings, flash flood areas, accidents, flooded roadways and mud slides.

Drive Slow

When roads are wet, they're also slippery. In fact, the most hazardous time to be on the road is when the very first raindrops fall since the rain mixes with the oil and dirt already on roadways. Drive slow and give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination by planning ahead, if possible.

Back Off

Most of us learned this is drivers' education, but for some of us, the older we get, the closer we think we have to be to the car in front of us. Allow at least two car lengths between your vehicle and the car in front of you. Remember: It's much more difficult to get a car to stop when roads are wet.

Watch the Road

Who doesn't hate potholes? Hitting a pothole can cause all kinds of problems, from throwing your vehicle out of alignment to doing damage to the undercarriage and muffler. If at all possible, avoid potholes by driving around them if it's safe to do so.



- **If you have information on crime that is occurring in your neighborhood you can contact the Southwest Division Crime Tip Line at 213-485-7492.**

- **The LAPD is also accepting anonymous crime tips via cell phone. You can text your information to CRIMES (274637) and begin your message with the letters LAPD**

3SLO55-WESTERN CORRIDOR AND JEFFERSON PARK

Crime Trends

The Western Corridor and Jefferson Park has experienced an increase in graffiti. Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) operates a graffiti hotline, 800 / 611-CITY (or 800 / 611-2489), through which residents may report graffiti. Work orders are referred to community-based graffiti removal programs contracted through OCS.

These agencies supervise community volunteers, as well as juveniles and adults who have received community service time from the courts. Work is performed using paint, chemical solvents or sandblasting, depending on the type of surface. All services are free of charge.

To report Graffiti within the City of Los Angeles, please follow these steps: Note the details of the graffiti, including the street, the cross street, the surface, and the color. Report the graffiti online by clicking on the On-line Graffiti Removal Request Form link below, or call the graffiti hotline at:

800 / 611- 2489

Crime Tips-Driving Safety

Check underneath and inside your car before entering.

Keep your car in good working order, including gas and all fluid levels up.

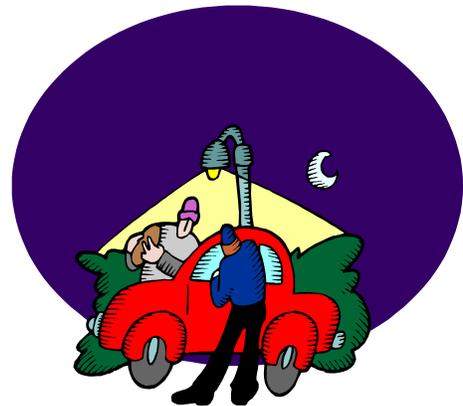
If your car breaks down, turn on flashers, lock your doors and get as far off the road as you can. Call 911 for police assistance.

If you are being followed, go to the nearest police or fire station, well-lit gas station or public place – do not go home.

When driving, place purse of valuables underneath your seats.

Park under a light at night if you anticipate it will be dark upon return.

Note where you parked your car for a quick and safe exit.



3SLO63-BALDWIN VILLAGE

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer Thomsen has received numerous complaints from concern citizens about illegal vending taking place throughout Baldwin Village. Senior Lead Officer Thomsen has advised that vendors that operate without a permit will be cited and/or arrested. It is important that community members continue to stay in constant communication with their Senior Lead Officer(SLO) in order to combat this problem. If you have any questions, please contact SLO Thomsen at 323/387-9614.

Crime Trends-Earthquake Preparedness

Earthquakes in Southern California are very common. It is important for families in Baldwin Village to be prepared to take extra precautions. Here are a few earthquake preparedness tips that Senior Lead Officer Thomsen would like the community to practice:

Check for and fix Hazards in the Home

Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors

Educate Yourself and Family Members

Have Disaster Supplies on Hand

Develop an Emergency Communication Plan

Help Your Community Get Ready



3SLO73-LEIMERT PARK AND THE CRENSHAW CORRIDOR

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Sasajima reports that during the month of December, there was an increase in Burglary from Motor Vehicles (BFMV) in the areas bordered by Sutro Avenue/Vernon Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard/Martin Luther King Boulevard. These incidents have been occurring overnight, between the hours of 9pm-6am. There is no suspect information available, as there were no witnesses to these crimes. SLO Sasajima suggests residents take caution not to leave valuables in your vehicles.

There have also been several reported incidents of copper wiring being removed from street lights. This has resulted in several neighborhoods being left without adequate lighting, until the street lights can be repaired. The lack of lighting raises concern as darkness provides an environment beneficial to vehicle thieves and burglars. Residents are asked to report any suspicious activity.



Crime Tips-Problematic 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 Trends:

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Anderson is happy to report that due to the extra efforts of the Southwest Bicycle Unit, the number of street robberies have been reduced in the Vermont Square area. Also, SLO Anderson reports the arrest of the "left handed bandit" by 77th Division officers has cleared numerous incidents of commercial store robberies as well.

Additionally, SLO Anderson reports that residential burglaries in the Vermont Square area have been

drastically reduced, however this area needs to remain vigilant. Residents must continue to report any suspicious activity, especially when neighbors are out of town for the holidays. SLO Anderson suggests that you get to know your neighbors and look out for each other's property.

Crime Tips-Anonymous Reporting

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.



SUBSTATION-CRENSHAW MALL

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Southern is deployed at the Crenshaw Mall (located at 3650 Martin L. King Blvd). The "Mall" provides twenty five uniformed security officers, who are employed by the **Investigative Protection Company/IPC**. IPC, provides constant parking lot patrol, foot beat patrol, and has a state of the art camera system. The LAPD

Substation (located on the first floor of the mall, next to Sears) is staffed with six uniformed LAPD Officers, who work with IPC, mall management, and community members to provide a safe and enjoyable shopping experience. Should you have any questions, SLO Southern may be contacted at (213)847-1276.

Crime Tip-Senior Crime Prevention

The three general rules to promote Senior Crime Prevention are:

Stay Alert! Be tuned-in to your surroundings; don't be taken by surprise. Be aware and prepared, even in your own neighborhood.

Stand Tall! Walk confidently, don't show fear, and don't look like a victim.



Trust Your Instincts! If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary.

FARMERS MARKET AT THE PLAZA!

The plaza proudly welcomes the Crenshaw Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market will be held in the parking area near Stocker and Santa Rosalia every Saturday from 10pm to 3pm. The Crenshaw Farmers Market (formerly the Leimert Park Farmers Market) is one of seven markets sponsored by Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles embodying the commitment to make healthy food available in a wide spectrum of the Los Angeles area.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EVENTS

Are your kids struggling to complete their home work assignments? If so, then join St. Agatha's Catholic Church every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. They have a Life Skills Academy that will teach your children the skills they need to succeed in life. They will also provide tutors to help your children with their homework. For additional information, contact Senior Lead Officer Sanchez.

The Southwest Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) meets the first Monday of every month at the Child Guidance Center, 3787 S. Vermont Avenue. If you are interested in attending, please contact Toni Rodgers @ 213/847-5800.

The St. James Area Block Club meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. The Wisconsin Street Block Club meets the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. The Estrella Block Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. For boundaries of these block clubs please call Senior Lead Officer Salazar 323-387-9617.

Senior Lead Officer Thomsen would like to see more community members participate in the following two neighborhood watch programs that meet at Jim Gilliam Park, 4000 S. La Brea Ave:

**Baldwin Village Community in Action meets every month on the third Wednesday at 6PM.*

**Jim Gilliam Park Seniors (Senior Citizens) meet every month on the third Wednesday at 1PM.*

**The Crenshaw Manor Neighborhood Watch Program meets every month on the first Wednesday at 6PM at 3939 Marlton Drive.*

The "Businesses of West Adams Corridor" has scheduled its next meeting on January 14, 2009 at 11:00 AM. The location will be at First AME Renaissance located at Western and Adams Boulevard. If you have any questions please contact Senior Lead Officer Hauter for more information.

The 26th Place Block Club is looking to expand their block club. They meet on the second Tuesday, of every month, at 7:00 PM, in the 2100 block of 26th Place. If you live in the area of 26th Place and Cimarron Street, you are encouraged to attend. Please contact Senior Lead Officer Tracy Hauter for further information.

Senior Lead Officer Hauter is also looking to start a block club in area of Harvard Street, between Adams and Jefferson. If you are interested in joining, please email Officer Hauter at 35896@LAPD.LACITY.ORG.

A block club was recently started back up after an extended absence in the area of Punta Alta Drive and El Mirador. If you live in this area of Baldwin Vista and would like to get more involved, please contact Senior Lead Officer Beard at 323/387-9621.

The Voices of 90037, neighborhood council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2009, 6:30 pm at Normandie Avenue. Elementary School. For additional information, contact Senior Lead Officer Anderson at 323/387-9623.

Jim Gilliam Park located at 4000 S. La Brea Ave offers free afterschool activities for children of all ages. Also, a new mentoring program will be offered at the park. If you are interested and would like to find out more information regarding activities offered at the park, please contact Denise Stansell (Director) at 323/291-5928. If you would like to find out more information regarding the new mentoring program, please call Senior Lead Officer Thomsen at 323/387-9614.

Come join the Community Village Project. Be the change in your neighborhood. Create a safe park for our children to play. Clean up and take pride in our neighborhood. Make our community healthier and safer by removing harmful and irresponsible businesses. For more information call Karume at 323/750-9087 x263.



Mark your calendars. The city of Los Angeles will celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on January 18, 2010. Please keep in mind that most City government offices and services will be closed for the day. This is a day when we recognize and remember a man who demonstrated and fought for the rights of freedom, peace and equality for all people. Also, look out for the 25th Annual Kingdom Day Parade. The parade is expected to start at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Western at approximately 10 o'clock in the morning.

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