Volume 02, Issue 2 **February 2010**

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Hello Community Members!!

The first thing we want you to know is that we appreciate the partnership we share with you at Southwest Area. As your police department, we continue to be hard at work seeking ways to improve our service to you. We are starting 2010 off with a new specialized unit - the Crime Reduction Detail, to further reduce the violent crime within our area. I am also setting higher standards for our personnel and devising strategies to meet new crime reduction goals.

We remain focused on seeking new ideas to increase the neighborhood fun in the area. The carnival we held in November 2009 was such a success; next month we are hosting a second carnival from Friday, March 12th through Sunday, March 14, 2010. This will be another opportunity for the Southwest Youth Programs (Cadets, Deputy Auxiliary Police, and the Police Activities League) to expand activities, while pleasantly interacting with the Community we serve.

Let us continue to prioritize our efforts to achieve desired goals, and strengthen our partnership as fellow stockholders in this community. By continuing to combine our resources, my commitment to this year's resolution of reducing crime and improving the quality of life for every Community member here in Southwest, will definitely be realized.

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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.

3A1-ADAMS BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer Sanchez reports that last year Southwest Division reported a crime reduction of ten percent in violent crimes. Also, last month, the Adams Boulevard Neighborhood had a considerably low number of reported criminal incidents. That's great news! A sincere thanks to this community because we could not have achieved this goal without you. Let's keep up the good work!

Crime Tips-Basic Street Knowledge

Wherever you are - on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway - stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.

Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.

Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

On Foot

Stick to well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.

Don't flash large amounts of cash or other tempting targets like expensive jewelry or clothing.

Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps.

Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, not a back pocket.

Try to use automated teller machines in the daytime. Have your card in hand and don't approach the machine if you're uneasy about people nearby.

Don't wear shoes or clothing that restrict your movements.

Have your car or house key in hand before you reach the door.

If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street. Walk toward an open store, restaurant, or lighted house. If you're scared, yell for help.

Have to work late or do some late night shopping? Make sure there are others in the building, and ask someone - a colleague or security guard - to walk you to your car or transit stop.

Driving

Always roll up the windows and lock car doors, even if you're coming right back. Check inside and out before getting in.

Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in lots and underground parking garages.

If you think someone is following you, don't head home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, gas station, or other open business to get help.

Don't pick up hitchhikers. Don't hitchhike.

On Buses and Subways

Use well-lighted, busy stops.

Stay alert! *Don't* doze or daydream.

If someone harasses you, don't be embarrassed. Loudly say or shout "Leave me alone!" If that doesn't work, hit the emergency device.

Watch who gets off the bus with you. If you feel uneasy, walk directly to a place where there are other people.

What to do if Someone Tries To Rob You

Don't resist. Give up your property, don't give up your life.

Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

One Final Tip

Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals, and restaurants, or stores that are open late.

3SLO15-WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

As 2010 begins, Senior Lead Officer Hauter reports that violent crime is still at a low percentage in the West Adams area. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in residential burglaries in the areas of 27th Street and Brighton Avenue, Raymond Avenue, Kenwood Street and Normandie Avenue. The suspects were described as male Blacks, approximately 5-08" to5-09" and approximately 150-160 pounds. Suspects have been known to make their entrance through a rear window. Please make sure you are securing(locking) your windows and doors when you leave your house.

Crime Tips-Business Watch

On a lighter note, the "Businesses of West Adams Corridor" had its second quarterly meeting at First AME Church. Officer Hauter would like to thank all the businesses that participated in the meeting. Also, a note of special thanks is extended to First AME and Mrs. Hunter for their support.

3SLO19-NORTH UNIVERSITY PARK

Crime Trends

Since the beginning of January there has been an increase in Burglary From Motor Vehicle(BFMV) in the North University Park area. Senior Lead Officer Salazar advises these crimes are occurring primarily along Adams Boulevard from Vermont Avenue to Scarff Street. To address this problem, Southwest Division, along with the University Of California Department Of Public Safety, conducted a Burglary From Motor Vehicle crime suppression detail. Although no specific arrests were made, helpful information was gathered and is now on file regarding these crimes. Additionally, crime prevention fliers were distributed in the affected areas.

Please, remember to report any suspicious activity to the police.

Crime Tips-Vehicle Security

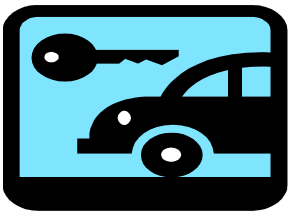
You can prevent vehicle theft!

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:

Lock up

An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.



Lock the trunk or tailgate.

Close all windows — professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.

Be sure vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight.

When you park the car, remove cellular phones, cassette players and other valuable possessions. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.

Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.

Use anti-theft devices

When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.

Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:

Interior hood lock release.

Second ignition switch or "kill switch" to prevent electrical current from reaching the coil distributor.

Fuel switch to prevent fuel from reaching the carburetor locking gas cap.

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3SLO31-JEFFERSON PARK

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer(SLO) Biondo reports that Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles is trending upwards throughout the Southwest Area. Most of the thefts are occurring between the hours of 6:00 pm and 6:00 am. Thursday and Wednesday were the days where most of the thefts occurred, followed by Sunday. Chevrolet vehicles were the most often targeted followed by BMW.

SLO Biondo recommends that if possible, park your vehicle off the street, as the vast majority of the thefts occurred while vehicles were on the street. Make sure to park in well lit areas and remove all valuables from the vehicle including detachable radio faces etc. Lastly, be sure lock and secure all of the doors and windows on your vehicle.

SLO Biondo also advises that 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.

Crime Tips-Emergency Preparedness

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage

treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer.

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Find out how to keep food safe during and after and emergency by visiting: http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/

3SLO41-BALWIN HILLS/VISTA AND VILLAGE GREEN

Crime Trends

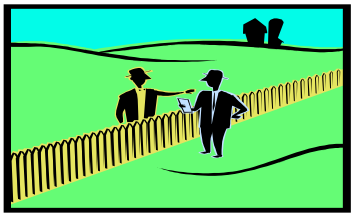
There has been a recent increase in residential burglaries within the Baldwin Hills area. A few of these incidents have been crimes of opportunity when residents leave there windows or doors unlocked or open. Locking your residence even when you are home will you from becoming a victim of a crime. This includes locking your back doors and windows.

Crime Tips-Reisdential Burglaries

When away, always lock your residence(Several incidents have taken place with unlocked residences; this includes leaving garage doors open and unlocked).

If you see something or someone that seems out of the ordinary, then it probably is. Call the police for immediate response. Call Senior Lead Officer Beard afterwards for follow-up information.

If you are going to be away for an extended period of time tell a neighbor and have them check on your house.



Always look out for your neighbors. A "*nosey*" neighbor often is the witness to many criminal activities.

- **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

Great news for the Western Corridor and Jefferson Park areas! Renovations at Martin Luther King Park are now complete. Stop by to see the new baseball field, playground, basketball and tennis courts.

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 for any assistance necessary.

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(SLO) Thomsen reports there have been burglaries occurring in the Gloria Homes and Crenshaw Manor communities. SLO Thomsen suggests that residents in these areas establish or participate in their local neighborhood watch. It is also important to report suspicious activity to the police. The burglaries have occurred during the week while people are at work and their children are at school. Please remember to always lock and secure your house before you leave.

It is also a good idea to invest in an alarm system to alert your neighbors of any possible criminal activities.

Crime Tips-Hands Free Driving

It is important not to drive your vehicle while talking or texting on your cell phone. Some people may feel that they can multi-task and that there's no possible way that they can get into a traffic collision. Senior Lead Officer Thomsen wants the community to obey the new law that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed in 2006, "Hands Free California." According to a Harvard study in 2002, 5% of all traffic accidents are caused by distracted cell phone users. California Highway Patrol statistics show that cell phone use is the top cause of accidents triggered by distracted drivers. *(http://www.drivinglaws.org).*

Here are some options that can be used while operating your vehicle:

- **Abstinence** (Don't use your cell phone)
- **Speaker Phone**
- **Use a bluetooth wireless device**
- **Use a "wired" headset**

- **Install a "car kit"** (http://www.drivinglaws.org).

Baldwin Village community members let's make a promise to ourselves that we will not use our cell phones while driving!

3SLO73-LEIMERT PARK AND THE CRENSHAW CORRIDOR

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer(SLO) Sasajima reports that January experienced a handful of street robberies during the late afternoon to evening hours in the area bordered by Crenshaw, Martin Luther King, Sutro and Vernon. Though there have been no reports of injuries, it appears that suspects have been targeting juveniles and seniors. On January 13, 2010, a juvenile suspect was arrested by Southwest Patrol Officers, for robbery. Residents are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and 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.

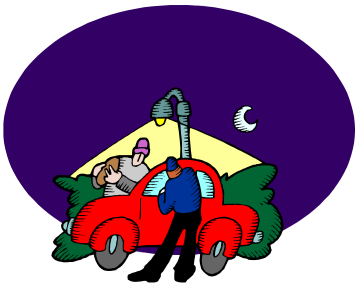
Neighborhood Watch News

In response to several concerns with regards to 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 these issues. Contact your Senior Lead Officer for additional information.

3SLO99-VERMONT SQUARE

Crime Trends:

Senior Lead Officer Anderson reports an increase of vehicle thefts in the area between Vermont Avenue and Normandie Avenue. These incidents have been occurring during evening hours and on weekends. The vehicles being taken have been of several different makes and models, however the majority have been early 90's Toyota Camrys.



In response, there has been an increase in officer patrols in the area in an attempt to apprehend the suspects and lower the amount of incidents. Additionally, the community flyers will be distributed in the affected areas.

As a reminder, try to park in well lit areas, do not leave keys or anything else of value visible in the vehicle, lock and secure your vehicle and report any suspicious activity immediately to the police.

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 at 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 26th Place Block Club is looking to expand their block club. They meet on the second Tuesday, of every month, at 7:00 PM. 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.

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.

Jim Gilliam Park located at 4000 S. La Brea Ave offers free afterschool activities for children of all ages. If you are interested and would like to find out more information regarding these activities, please contact Denise Stansell (Director) at 323/291-5928.

A new mentoring program will also be offered at Jim Gilliam Park. If you would like to find out more information regarding the new mentoring program, please call Senior Lead Officer Thomsen at 323/387-9614.

Honoring Black History Month**,** the Crenshaw Plaza will host "The Art Walk." The Art Walk will begin on February 18, 2010 to February 22, 2010. The Art Walk will consume the first floor and the second floor of the plaza for your enjoyment. For more exciting events and happenings at the Crenshaw Plaza, please go to **www.crenshawplaza.com**.

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