



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Senior Lead Officers Unit  
6240 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

December 2018



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# GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**Please come out and help shape the future of your community.**

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.,  
Location: Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard., Van Nuys, CA.

**Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.,  
Location: Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Valley Glen Neighborhood Association:** General meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every even numbered month  
at 7:00 p.m., Location: Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.,  
Location: Sherman Oaks Elementary School located at 14755 Greenleaf Street, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.,  
Location: Sherman Oaks Galleria located at 15301 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners' Association:** General meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30  
p.m., Location: Notre Dame High School located at 13645 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting:** General meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.,  
Location: Church on the Way, 14424 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your  
neighborhood, please call your Senior Lead Officer at the number below for further details.



[local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys](http://local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys).

# WHO TO CONTACT

**For crimes in progress dial: 911.**

To report any suspicious activity or person(s) call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at: **877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273)**.

Keep our community clean! Call: 311 or visit <http://lacity.org/MyLA311/index.htm> to report graffiti, bulky items on the street or sidewalks, and shopping carts in the area. You can also download the MyLA311 smartphone mobile application to submit your report. Keeping the streets clean shows the criminals that we have pride in our community, and we will not tolerate their activities.

If you would like information on resources available to support or counsel victims of domestic violence, call the City of Los Angeles “**211**” support number (option 7) or [www.211LA.org](http://www.211LA.org).

For more information about domestic violence see the LAPD webpage, where you will find online information and resources go to: [http://www.lapdonline.org/get\\_informed/content\\_basic\\_view/8893](http://www.lapdonline.org/get_informed/content_basic_view/8893).

Also, you can contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline (**800-799-7233**) and Domestic Abuse Center, 14402 Haynes Street, Van Nuys, CA 91401; (**818**) **904-1700** (not a 24-hour hotline).

## **Crime Update**

### **Basic Car 9A5:**

Senior Lead Officer Katy Paschal

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### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 5 is down (-12.03%) in Violent Crimes and down (-4.81%) in Property Crimes, bringing our year-to-date crime reduction to -6.20% in comparison to this time last year. Robberies are down (-22%). Burglaries (both residential and commercial) are down -18.75%. Aggravated Assaults are up (+9.23%), however, most of the assaults involve some sort of relationship between the suspect and victim and are not random attacks, mostly Domestic Incidents.

Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (BTFV) has historically been the Basic Car’s Achille’s heel. I am happy to report that BTFVs are down (-9.52%)! Continue the good work of not leaving items in your vehicles to prevent the temptations of theft. Pick a time at the end of your day and incorporate cleaning out your car. It will eventually become a habit and will occur automatically.

With the holiday season in full swing, please be more cognizant of any deliveries you may have at your residences. Package thefts continue to rise every year. If the item is delivered by the United States Postal

Service (USPS), the crime report is to be taken by the Postal Inspector by going to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). If the item was delivered by a third-party vendor (UPS, FedEx etc.), the LAPD can take the report.

If you are lucky enough to receive a big-ticket item this season, don't advertise your new toy by leaving the empty box in tact in your trash. Break down the box (cut it up!) before you throw it away or dispose of the box at another location.

If you plan on doing your shopping the old-fashioned way and go to the mall or other retail locations, try not to take your packages out to your vehicles mid shopping spree. Criminals scope out parking lots and are just waiting for you to go by and put your new items into your vehicle and go back to continue shopping.

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season!

If you have a camera system in place at your residence or business, please try to have everyone skilled in retrieving or reviewing the video. Often, officers respond to calls and need to review video but no one at the location knows how to view it. This can sometimes cause delays in investigations or suspect identification.

Please inform me (or your respective Senior Lead Officer) of any issues you are having with encampments. The faster we become aware of it, hopefully, the quicker we can address it. If you need to report an encampment, please be sure to call 311 or use the FREE mobile app (MyLA311) to request the Department of Sanitation to respond. The MyLA311 phone app can also be used to report a variety of other problems/issues in your neighborhood that other entities investigate (Building and Safety, graffiti removal, Department of Transportation, etc.).

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's City cell phone/email is **not for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls**. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out on a radio call. The front desk officers are here to take telephonic reports and answer questions, not to dispatch calls.

#### **Basic Car 9A19:**

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

Email Address: [35569@lapd.online](mailto:35569@lapd.online)

#### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A19 encompasses the area of Sherman Way to the north, Victory Boulevard to the south, Van Nuys Boulevard to the west, and the Tujunga Wash to the east. Violent Crime is down (-4.69% YTD,) Property Crimes are down (-5.90% YTD,) and Total Part 1 Crimes are also down (-5.61% YTD). Aggravated Assaults saw an increase of 7.5%. Most the aggravated assaults are domestic violence related where the suspect is known to the victim.

This month I am very pleased that I was selected as the permanent Senior Lead Officer for the Basic Car. I am becoming familiar with the area by making it a point to drive on each street during my shift. In doing so, I have identified some areas of concern, mainly having to do with the local transients who frequent the area. Council District 6 has created a rapid response team with the Department of Sanitation to dispose of trash and belongings left by transients. Please email me with any locations of encampments or excess trash that needs disposal.

The other issue of concern is the large bulky items (couches, TVs, furniture) that litter the sidewalks. It is all our obligation to keep our community clean. Please use the LA City 311 Mobil application on your smart phone or computer to report such items.

Early next year, I will begin a strong Neighborhood Watch Campaign. The Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program enlisting the active participation of residents in cooperation with LAPD to reduce the incidence and fear of crime in our community. It involves neighbors getting to know each other and developing a program of mutual assistance. It also involves neighbors using crime prevention strategies as tools to reduce crime in their communities. If you are interested in participating or hosting a Neighborhood Watch Meeting in your neighborhood, please email me at [35569@lapd.online](mailto:35569@lapd.online).

I look forward to a mutual and sustained relationship in making our community a clean and safe place to work and live.

**Basic Car 9A23:**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 23 has an increase of 1.36% in overall Part 1 Crime along with a decrease of -3.33% in overall Property Crimes. Violent Crimes are up 5.65% Year-to-Date due to an increase of Aggravated Assaults related to Domestic Violence incidents and a slight increase of Street Robberies.

Most the Part 1 crimes occur along the major Corridors like Van Nuys Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard. If you are out and about, please be vigilant of your surroundings. Don't bury your head in your cell phone and be cognizant of who and what is around you.

As we continue to navigate through the year, please don't become complacent by leaving valuables in your vehicle or the doors unlocked. I have been tracking the Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles since the holidays are approaching. Criminals will peruse parking lots looking for shopping bags left in plain view. Be aware of the potential risks even if you lock items in your trunk. Try to park in a well-lit area and pay attention to who is watching you and remember, "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It!"

I've been working with our Homeless Outreach Unit, Department of Sanitation, and Cal Trans to assist with the encampments in and around Basic Car 23. If you see a significant encampment, please e-mail me so we can address it before it gets out of hand.

The My LA 311 app can be downloaded to your mobile device and used to report bulky items, graffiti, and broken streetlights. Help be part of the solution by using the app to clean the community we share.

**Basic Car 9A37:**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

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Email Address: [32052@lapd.online](mailto:32052@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Please be vigilant about not leaving items in your vehicle so that we can try to keep the property crime numbers down. Remember, "Lock it, hide it, Keep it".

Both residential and commercial burglaries continue to be a concern so please review our Burglary crime prevention section to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

We continue to see bicycle thefts in the area. If you own a bicycle, please make sure you secure it with a quality lock that cannot be easily cut. Also, when storing your bike, try to keep it in your residence or a closed, locked storage area or garage. Most bicycles are stolen from underground parking garages and storage areas. Lastly, please make a note of your bicycle serial number, usually located under the frame below the pedals.

The serial number is essential if the bicycle is stolen, so police can positively identify it as stolen property. Many stolen bikes are quickly painted and made to look different, and without a serial number it can be difficult for us to identify.

Continue to build Neighborhood Watch participation in Valley Glen to combat residential Burglaries is the goal for this year. I will be working with the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association to increase membership, participation, and education. Please contact me if you would like to become involved.

Safeguard your home by making sure your residential doors and windows are securely locked when you are not home. Use an alarm and video surveillance cameras. Also, place signs around your home warning of an alarm system and cameras to deter would-be thieves.

The My LA 311 app can be downloaded to your mobile device and used to report bulky items, graffiti, and broken streetlights. Help be part of the solution by using the app to clean the community we share.

**Basic Car 9A41:**

Senior Lead Officer Tony Cabunoc

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

The current crime numbers show a tremendous spike in our Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle. In the past two weeks, the Sepulveda Corridor north of Magnolia Boulevard at Weddington Street has been the target of thieves. Late night and early morning, locked as well as unlocked vehicles have been entered and property taken. Officers were directed to the area and the extra patrol resulted in an arrest. While officers were patrolling Sepulveda Boulevard at Weddington Street at approximately 5:00 a.m., officers observed a male Hispanic wearing dark clothing, squatting, and appeared to be using a tire iron to remove lug nuts. Officers quickly negotiated a U-turn and detained the suspect as he attempted to walk away. The suspect said that it was his mom's car and he was just checking the tires for her. Upon further investigation, the registered owner was located and officers learned that suspect was in fact attempting to remove the vehicle's tire. The lug nut wrench was found along with narcotics that the suspect admitted as his. The suspect was then booked for possession and Attempt Theft from Vehicle. Since that arrest, reported incidents of car break-ins have ceased. Apartments line the area of Weddington Street and Sepulveda Boulevard. That makes for several cars in a concentrated area which make for a greater number of possible break-ins by a thief. These officers saw no more than you or I would see. Be aware, report suspicious activity, and get police dispatched. (Non-emergency 877 ASK -LAPD or 877- 275-5273).

Be aware of package thieves this holiday season. Take the time to track your packages and provide an alternative delivery destination should you not be home. Door cameras can't prevent the theft, but may assist to further prosecution should the individual be arrested. Please make the report and stay safe.

A reminder, when holiday shopping secure all packages "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It."

Wishing you and your family Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas. Thanks again your support.

**Basic Car 9A63:**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Happy Holidays! Basic Car 9A63 covers the northern portion of Sherman Oaks. As we close out the year, I'm pleased to report that we are down in crime as compared to this same time in 2017. I show a decrease of- 8.0% in Property Crime and a decrease of- 20.0% in Violent Crimes. I look forward to continuing my partnership

with my Neighborhood Watch groups as we move ahead to 2019. Working together to continue the reduction of property crime is my overall goal. As always please be mindful of this holiday season and properly secure your valuables. When visiting shopping centers avoid parking in isolated spots and be aware of your surroundings. Please be mindful of tracking your packages when ordering online. If you cannot be home to receive it, consider a drop off location or ask a trusted neighbor to pick-up your package. This should help to reduce your chances of being victimized. Please call to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

Finally, please continue to be mindful of not leaving valuables inside your vehicles. This will help to reduce your chances of being victimized by the crime of Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle. Remember to “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It.”

#### **Basic Car 9A89:**

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

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#### **Crime Trends / Statistics**

Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. I show a decrease in total Property Crimes of -6.54% from last year, and a slight increase in violent crime of 1.41% from last year.

After reviewing the Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (BFMV/TFMV) reports, numerous victims continue leaving their valuables in plain sight and not locking their vehicles. I will continue to attend community/business meetings emphasizing “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It.”

Please email me any suspicious activity in the form of videos or photos. This can be our most significant source of information for developing leads on open cases. Please help us help you by being aware of what is going on in your neighborhood. Remember, the best way to avoid becoming a victim yourself is to remove all valuables from your vehicle every time you leave it. Do not leave anything that is not attached to your vehicle in plain sight. Make sure your cars and homes are locked and secured using as many crime prevention tools as possible.

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's City cell phone/email is not for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out on a radio call. The front desk officers are here to take telephonic reports and answer questions, not dispatch calls.

#### **Crime Prevention Tips**

- ***LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS*** when you leave the house. Close your blinds/drapes so no one can see into your house. Keep every part of your residence locked and secured, including your garage.
- ***DON'T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT*** place them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.
- ***TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR*** this includes your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.
- ***LOCK YOUR CAR AND PARK IT IN A GARAGE OR LIGHTED AREA.*** Make it difficult to get into your car. If it is outside, make your car as visible as possible.

- ***IF YOU'RE HOME AND SOMEONE KNOCKS OR RINGS YOUR DOORBELL, DO NOT IGNORE IT.*** Would be burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person without opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them.
- Video cameras are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider this option to protect your home.