



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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

July 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**

As of June 16, 2018, we are up in Violent Crimes by 1.64% and down -9.9% in Property Crimes, bringing our year-to-date crime reduction to -8.02% in comparison to last year. Robberies are up 8.33%. Aggravated Assaults are up 10.34% which is a slight decrease from last month. However, most of the assaults involve some relationship between the suspect and victim and are not random attacks. To put this into perspective, we have had 344 crimes as opposed to 374 this time (as of June 16) last year. The division is down -6.55% in total crime reduction.

Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (BTFV) has historically been the Basic Car’s Achille’s heel. I am happy to report that BTFVs is down over -19.80%! Continue the good work of not leaving items in your vehicles to prevent the temptations of theft. By incorporating cleaning out your car as part of your daily/nightly routine, it will eventually become a habit and will occur automatically.

We have also seen a slight decrease in Grand Theft Autos as well over the last couple of weeks.

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.

National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. If you are interested in hosting a neighborhood event, please call me as soon as possible.

Please do not leave children or animals unattended in vehicles. Studies show that the temperature inside a closed/locked car can rise substantially above the outside temperature. High heat can cause severe injuries or even death.

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:**

Acting Senior Lead Officer George Lara

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**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. As of June 9, 2018, Basic Car 9A19 has an increase by 12.73% in overall Part 1 crimes year-to-date, and Property Crime has a decreased by -12.95%.

Recently, I have received numerous complaints regarding large Recreational Vehicles (RVs) parked in residential neighborhoods. The Vehicle Dwelling (LAMC 85.02) Code map outlines the restrictions and allowances of vehicle dwelling in the Van Nuys Area. Copy of map is available on the LA City 311 mobile application. Although there are exceptions for vehicle dwelling on certain streets, all vehicles must comply with posted parking restrictions. To report vehicles parked on streets longer than 72 hours, call the Department of Transportation (DOT) dispatch at (818) 374-4823 or your Senior Lead Officer.

Although Property Crime has decreased by -12.95% year-to-date from last year, Basic Car 9A19 averages approximately twenty (20) property crime reports per month. Most of these crimes include burglary and thefts from vehicles which can be avoided by merely locking and securing your home and vehicle. Thieves and burglars are opportunists. An unlocked residence or an unlocked vehicle is an opportunity for thieves to take your belongings. Please remember do not leave items of value in your vehicle and to "Lock it, Hide It, Keep It."

**Basic Car 9A23:**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Thankfully, Basic Car 23 which covers the central portion of Van Nuys, has maintained an overall decrease of 1.02% in Part 1 Crimes year-to-date. Violent Crimes have an increase year-to-date of 13.92%, although there is a decrease in Homicide and Rapes. There is also a decrease of 4.78% in Property Crimes year-to-date. Historically, Property Crimes have been one of the main concerns for Basic Car 23, especially along the major corridors such as Vanowen Street and Sherman Way. The increase of Grand Theft Autos has raised our overall increase of property crimes. There have been several Honda's stolen in the past four (4) weeks especially older models.

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 at the LA Fitness parking lot at 6161 Sepulveda Boulevard. I am working closely with the security officers and the management team to deter the auto-related crimes occurring in their parking lot. 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 have been working with our Homeless Outreach Unit, Department of Sanitation, and Cal Trans to assist with the encampments in and around Basic Car 23 especially along the Van Nuys Corridor. Council District 6 and their Strike Team have been a great help in picking up bulky and abandoned items. The permits to build a new apartment complex at 6569 Van Nuys Boulevard are in the works and demolition will begin soon. A clean-up of the Van Nuys Area is scheduled for mid-July so be on the lookout for the flier in the event you would like to come out to help clean up the Corridor!

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.

If you live in an apartment or condominium complex, please don't hesitate to reach out to start an "Apartment Watch" group. I've found that these meetings are a great way to educate and bring together a community.

### **Basic Car 9A37:**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

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### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of June 9, 2018, my area is currently down -3.68% in overall Part 1 crimes, with Property Crime down -5.44%. Violent Crime is also down at -9.09%. We have seen a sharp increase in residential Burglaries in the Sherman Oaks area. Please review our Burglary crime prevention section to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Please remember not to leave any items in your vehicles "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It" to help prevent your vehicle from being targeted.

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's 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.

**Basic Car 9A41:**

Senior Lead Officer Tony Cabunoc  
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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

On May 29<sup>th</sup> Basic Car Area 41 was hit by three residential burglaries within an eight-hour span. The suspects were very bold in their method of entering by smashing out large glass sliding doors to make entry. The unknown suspects ransacked the homes seeking jewelry and items of value. Officers canvassed the neighborhoods seeking video evidence without success. Investigation revealed homes did not have alarms that protected the smashing of glass. When purchasing an alarm system, seek the extras such as glass sensors. Recently in early June, described suspects (two male Blacks and one male Hispanic mid to late 20's) during daytime hours entered a home along the 5800 block of Noble Avenue. Suspects entered the rear yard through a side gate and entered through an unsecured rear door. Suspects proceeded to rifle through the home taking valuables. Suspects fled to a waiting vehicle. Suspects were captured on video and detectives are investigating. Please harden the target by securing side gates, and letting neighbors know you are leaving. Install cameras and position them to capture faces and vehicles. Real time video feed and two-way audio can often prevent or stop suspects before they commit their crime.

Burglary from Motor Vehicle is also on the rise. Keep all property out of your vehicle and practice "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It."

**Basic Car 9A63:**

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A63 covers the northern portion of Sherman Oaks. As we head into the month of July, I currently show a decrease of- 7% in Property Crime and a decrease of- 8% on Violent Crimes. My two areas of concern are vehicle break-ins and Grand Theft Auto (GTA). Most incidents involving vehicle break-ins are taking place during the midnight hours, while most of us are asleep. Please be mindful of this and properly secure your vehicles and avoid leaving property inside. With regards to GTA, try to avoid parking in isolated spots and utilize a driveway versus the street whenever possible. 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 -17.34 % from last year, and -2.94% decrease in violent crimes.

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*** including 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.