



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 11

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

December 2017



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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., at the Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., 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., at 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., at 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., at Sherman Oaks Elementary School located at 14755 Greenleaf Street.

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

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

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

**Neighborhood Watch Meeting:** 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 their 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 persons 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 St., Van Nuys, CA 91401; (**818**) **904-1700** (not a 24-hour hotline)

## **Crime Update**

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

Senior Lead Officer Katy Paschal

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: [36128@lapd.online](mailto:36128@lapd.online)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of November 18, 2017, we are down -6.2%. We are still consistently up in auto related crimes (Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles +19.7% and Grand Theft Auto 28.7%).

The holidays are officially here. A lot of shopping these days is done online. If you are having packages delivered, consider needing a signature for delivery, or having them delivered to an alternate location (work or neighbor that is always home). I know that can be a pain, but it is a lot less painful than having to file a police report for stolen packages! If you plan on doing a lot of holiday shopping out and about, don't make “runs” to your vehicles to drop off your shopping bags. You never know who is watching you walk out with your brand-new presents!

We have all seen the increase in transient encampments within the City. I am working with our H.O.P.E. (Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement) Unit, Bureau of Sanitation, Street Services, Council District 2 and 6, as well as, several different outreach services to address these as best and as fast as we can. Before locations

can be scheduled for a full clean-up, several outreach attempts must be attempted. This takes a little time, as transients are just that, transient. Many times, we will speak to them at one location and then we must locate them again somewhere else. This makes the outreach process very time consuming. Once a clean-up is done, it does not prohibit them from returning, sometimes right after we leave. Please let me (or your respective Senior Lead Officer) know of any issues you are having with encampments. The faster we become aware of it, hopefully the faster we can address it.

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 for a radio call. The front desk officers are there to take telephonic reports and answer any questions, not dispatch calls.

**Basic Car 9A19:**

Senior Lead Officer John Bailey

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

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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 Tujunga wash to the East. As of October 14, 2017, Basic Car 9A19 had seen a decrease in the following crimes: Year-to-date, total violent crimes down -16.1 %, Robbery is down -37.5 %. Residential Burglaries are down -12.1 %, and Personal Theft crimes are down -19.0%. However, there has been an uptick in crimes involving Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles, up by 8.9%.

The holidays are just around the corner, so please take care of yourself and your "Precious Cargo." ARRIVE ALIVE, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE! If you over indulge this Holiday Season, please utilize one of the many ways to get a safe ride home. It's not worth hurting yourself, your loved ones, or someone else.

If you plan on being out of town for an extended period, please arrange to have parcels/ packages placed on hold at your nearest mailing annex/ hub. This helps deter crime and reduces the chances of you becoming a mail theft Victim. Please lock and secure doors when you leave the house. If you go on a trip for an extended period, the more cars in the driveway the better. If possible during hours of darkness, leave some lights on or install motion sensor lighting/ timers around the house. This usually indicates people are home and helps deter/reduce residential Burglary activity.

**Basic Car 9A23:**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 23 is down -4.5% in overall Part 1 Crimes Year-to-Date. Violent Crimes are also down -10.8% Year-to-Date including a decrease in Homicide, Rape, Robbery as well as Aggravated Assaults. There is an increase in property crimes bringing the total to 9.4% over Year-to-Date. This is due to an uptick in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles (8.6% YTD), Burglary (25.4%), and Grand Theft Autos (31.9% YTD). We are down (-2.4%) in thefts.

Most of the property crimes are related to Burglary and Theft from Motor vehicles. Never leave valuables in your vehicle, and be sure to lock your vehicle upon exiting even if it's parked in your driveway.

I've been working with our Homeless Outreach Unit to assist with the encampments in and around Basic Car 23. If you need to report an encampment please be sure to call 311 or use your mobile app to request Sanitation to respond. Remember, Lock It, Hide It, Keep it!

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 types of meetings are a great way to educate and bring together a community.

In light of the recent events that unfolded in Las Vegas, I would like to remind you to stay vigilant, know your surroundings, and have a plan. If you see something, say something.

**Basic Car 9A37:**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, my area is currently up 8.6% in property crimes, 29.8% in Grand Theft Autos (stolen vehicles), and down 2.6% in Burglary from Motor Vehicles (cars being broken into). Total violent crime has increased to up 9.2 %. These numbers are year-to-date compared to last year during the same period.

We continue to see an increase in thefts of bicycles in the Valley. It is very important that you take several precautions to help reduce this crime trend. First, make sure you're locking your bike up with a quality lock that can't be easily cut. Also, when storing your bike, try to keep it inside your residence or in a closed storage area or garage, out of sight. Many of the stolen bicycles are being taken from underground parking garages and storage areas. Lastly, please **make a note of the bicycle's serial number**, usually located under the frame below the pedals. This is very important if the bicycle should be stolen so that the police can positively identify it as stolen property. Many of the stolen bicycles are quickly painted and made to look different, and without a serial number it can be very difficult for us to identify.

Build my 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're not home. Use an alarm and video surveillance cameras. Also, place signs around your home warning of alarm system and cameras to deter would be thieves.

**Basic Car 9A41:**

Senior Lead Officer Tony Cabunoc

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Email Address: [25170@lapd.online](mailto:25170@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

No rhyme or reason but Basic Car 41 is up in all crimes except personal theft. I'm not going to go through percentages. It's real simple, practice what we preach. Remove all items from your vehicle. Tis the season for window shopping. Easy pickings when any items are left inside. Now that the night comes a lot little earlier, why shouldn't thieves take advantage of that as well. With the holidays coming its more important than ever to guard against car break-ins. While gift shopping, don't visit your car to store items in the passenger compartment. Guard against credit card fraud, and secure your home while away. Don't become a statistic, practice what we preach. Let's schedule area block meetings throughout the Basic Car area and have a great start for 2018.

**Basic Car 9A63:**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

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### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A63 covers the Northern Sherman Oaks community. Heading into the month of December, we are still experiencing a slight increase in property crimes with regards to Residential Burglary and Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle. I'm currently up +7% as compared to this same time from last year. Most incidents involving residential burglaries are taking place during the daytime hour, while most homeowners are away at work. Please be mindful of this and properly secure your homes and avoid leaving windows open. Remember, an open window is an open invitation to your home. With regards to thefts, please be mindful to track your packages when ordering on-line. If you cannot be home to receive it, consider a drop off location or ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your package for you. This should help to reduce your chances of being victimized, especially around the holiday season. Please call to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood. When visiting local retailers this holiday season, please keep an eye on your property and be aware of your surroundings.

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:**

Acting Senior Lead Officer Larry Schwartz

Cell Phone: 818-731-2565

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### **Crime Trends / Statistics**

I would first like to welcome back Senior Lead Officer Saldana to Basic Car Area 9A89. It was pleasure assisting Officer Saldana for the Sherman Oaks area.

Basic Car 9A89 covers the Southern Portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. I show an increase in Total Property Crimes of 13.2% from last year at this time. However, there is a decrease in Total Violent Crime by -12.5% from last year.

After reviewing the BFMV/TFMV reports, numerous victims continue leaving their valuables in plain sight, and not locking their vehicles. I will continue attending community/business meetings emphasizing "Lock it, Hide it and Keep it."

We are utilizing as many resources as possible to combat all these problems. However, please email any suspicious activity in the form of videos or photos. This can be our greatest source of information for developing leads on open cases. Please help us help you by being aware of what's 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 for a radio call. The front desk officers are there to take telephonic reports and answer any 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.*** Put 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.