



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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

September 2018



[facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision](https://facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision)



[twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv](https://twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv)

[@lapdvannuysdiv](https://twitter.com/lapdvannuysdiv)

# 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

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

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

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of August 11, 2018, we are even in Violent Crimes and down -3.5% in Property Crimes, bringing our year-to-date crime reduction to -2.92% in comparison to this time last year. Robberies are down along with Aggravated Assaults. 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 is still down! 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. Although we are up in Grand Theft Autos, we have seen a decrease in 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.

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.).

*I will be out of the office and on vacation from August 5-September 29. Someone will be monitoring my City cell phone. Please continue to call with any issues you have.*

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

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

Email Address: [38454@lapd.online](mailto:38454@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. As of August 11, 2018, Basic Car 9A19 has a decrease by -1.62% in overall Part 1 crimes year-to-date, and Property Crime has a decrease by -6.87%.

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. A copy of the 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 -6.87% 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."

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.

**Basic Car 9A23:**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

Cell Phone: 818-731-2557

Email Address: [37525@lapd.online](mailto:37525@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 23 is up 3.01% in overall Part 1 Crimes which is approximately 12 more crimes this year compared to last year at this time. Violent Crimes are up 19.00% Year-to-Date, due to an increase of Aggravated Assaults related to Domestic Violence incidents. There is also a slight increase of property crimes (Grand Theft Autos) which are occurring along the major corridors.

With the increase of GTA's along Vanowen Street and Van Nuys Boulevard, I have reached out to my Apartment Watch Groups and Managers to ask them to remind their tenants to lock and secure their vehicles. If you are out shopping or visiting a business for extended periods of time, please be sure to lock your cars and park in a well-lit area.

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 Gilmore Street between Vesper Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard. Council District 6 and their Strike Team have been a great help in picking up bulky and abandoned items. We conducted a major clean-up on Van Nuys Boulevard between Vanowen Street and Victory Boulevard thanks to the efforts of Council District 6, Van Nuys Cadets, and several volunteers.

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 do not hesitate to reach out to start an Apartment Watch group. I have found that these meetings are a great way to educate and bring together a community.

**Basic Car 9A37:**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cell Phone: 818-731-2562

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

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of August 11, 2018, my area is currently slightly up at 2.25% in total Part I crime compared to last year. I am also up in violent crime by 19.05%, however, much of that can be attributed to an increase in domestic related incidents. We are currently even with a 0% increase/decrease in property crimes. Both residential and commercial burglaries are always a concern, so please review our Burglary crime prevention section to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Also, 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

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

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

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

We have plus 8% in overall crime in Basic Car 41. Aggravated assaults and thefts have driven the crimes numbers up compared to last year at this same time. Reported aggravated assaults are often incidents involving victims and suspects who know each other. As for thefts, victims are random and thefts range from stolen cell phones left unattended to package thefts. These are crimes left to opportunity for thieves. Bicycles are also on the list of items stolen. Front yard and an open garage are invitations to take bicycles, as well poorly locked and unsecured bicycles. A locked bike can be stolen if not secured properly. Secure your bike to a designed public or private bike post. Securely anchored posts are found throughout the community. They are at public buildings and in many shopping centers and stores. Inspect the post to be sure it has not been tampered with, or perhaps weakened allowing thieves to manipulate a locked and attached bike loose. Know the types of locks best for securing your bike. "Pennywise and dollar foolish" is what thieves count on for an easy theft. Finally, take a photo of your bike and know the make, model, and serial number of your bike. Everything can be captured in photos. Hint: inscribe your driver's license in multiple hidden spots on the bike frame. Should your bike ever come into question or examined by officers, this form of identification would help investigators tremendously.

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:**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email Address: [27270@lapd.online](mailto:27270@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A63 covers the northern portion of Sherman Oaks. As we head into the month of September, I am happy to report that we are down in crime. As compared to this same time from last year, I show a decrease of -7% in Property Crime and a decrease of -1.0% 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

Cell Phone: 818-731-2565

Email Address: [30853@lapd.online](mailto:30853@lapd.online)

**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 -8.00% from last year, and -14.00% 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!*** 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.