



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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

January 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., 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

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I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I will be out of the office until January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Crime Trends/Statistics

As of December 16, 2017, we are down -14.4% in Violent Crimes and in Property Crimes we are up +4.5% compared to last year. This brings our total crime reduction of Part I Crimes to -6.6% (total of 729 crimes versus 777 crimes last year). With these numbers, it looks like we may be closing out the year with the lowest crime stats in the division! This cannot be done without the collaboration between the Department and the great citizens of Van Nuys. Our Achilles heel is still Grand Theft Auto and Burglaries/Thefts from Motor Vehicles.

Even though the surge of online shopping and package deliveries is calming down, that doesn't mean the crime of package thefts goes away. 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).

If you were lucky enough to receive a large item this year as a gift, consider breaking down the box. Nothing says “Oh look! A shiny new TV!” to suspects like leaving big boxes intact in your garbage.

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

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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 December 16, 2017, Basic Car 9A19 had seen a decrease in the following crimes: Year-to-date, total violent crimes down -5.6 % and Robbery is down -17.8 %. Residential Burglaries are down -17.9 %, and Personal Theft crimes are down -17.5%. However, there has been an increase in crimes involving Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles, up by 13.4%.

Let’s welcome in the New Year on a good note and continue to adhere to the crime prevention tips I have provided during the past year. As mentioned above, we have seen a reduction in residential burglaries, keep up the good work! When away, unfortunately the criminals will play. Remember to try and leave more cars in the driveway. If possible, coordinate with a neighbor and let them park vehicles in your driveway while gone for an extended amount of time. The appearance of people at home helps deter crime. During hours of darkness, leave some lights on or install motion sensor lighting/ timers around the house.

**MAIL / PACKAGE THEFT IS ON THE RISE!** If you are not home for a scheduled delivery, 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.

Unfortunately, the surrounding areas of a homeless encampments usually see an uptick of property crimes. PLEASE! Do not take the law into your own hands when dealing with the homeless, as some suffer from mental illness and PTSD. Should you see evidence of homeless, trash, or tents pop-up in an area, please notify your Senior Lead Officer so we can address the issue by assisting the homeless with shelter information and enforcing lodging, Trespass, and sidewalk obstruction laws. This helps reduce crime and over population of homeless encampments in our neighborhoods. Remember, we can’t help you with your problems or concern unless we know about them.

**Basic Car 9A23:**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 23 has an overall increase (6.0%) in Part 1 Crimes Year-to-Date. Violent Crimes are also down - 4.4% 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% overall Year-to-Date. This is due to an uptick in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles (3.0% YTD), Burglary (32.9%), and Grand Theft Autos (14.3% YTD). We are up (-5.6%) in thefts.

It's that time of year where 'Porch Pirates' are following delivery trucks and taking packages right off your doorstep. Please try to have your packages delivered during a time when you are home. You can also ask a neighbor or have packages delivered to a nearby business that your carrier has pre-approved. If you become a victim, please let your Senior Lead Officer know so we can track where the activity is taking place. Remember, if the item is delivered by the United States Postal Service they will take the initial report at 1-877-ASK-USPS.

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.

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

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

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### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of December 2, 2017, my area is currently up 10.9% in property crimes, 30.5% in Grand Theft Autos (stolen vehicles), and up 2.0% in Burglary from Motor Vehicles (cars being broken into). Violent crime is also up a total of 15.4%. 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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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Year-end numbers for Basic Car 41. Reported violent crime reports are at 165 with an increase of over 29%. Reported property crimes are over 760 with an increase of 3.5%. Overall, we will end the year with an increase of over 7% of the combined violent and property crimes. We have our work cut out for us in 2018. As for violent crime, the break-down is as follows, robbery up 43% and aggravated assaults up 31%. Property crimes we were up in all categories: Burglaries 10%, auto theft 9%, burglary/theft from motor vehicles 17%. The message is clear we must do a better job policing our communities. It starts with Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention efforts. Burglary/theft from motor vehicles should be a no brainer. Share this simple advice to neighbors. Remove all items from your car including garage remotes and small items like sunglasses. Lock the doors and set your alarm. So often this past year, I read reports where the owners failed to lock and secure their vehicle making for an easy theft. Home burglar alarms can only help in deterring a burglar from the attempt to burglarize. Real time live video feed will get the alerts directly to you, and who better to report a crime in progress. These are some issues we can address for 2018. Let's keep our neighborhood from being an easy target, let's get back to Neighborhood Watch and knowing our neighbors. Happy New Year!

**Basic Car 9A63:**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry  
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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A63 covers the Northern Sherman Oaks community. Closing out the year for 2017, I ended up with a slight increase in overall crime. I was up + 5% as compared to 2016. My two areas of concern were residential burglaries and thefts. 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." Thank you for all your support and I look forward to continuing our partnership in 2018.

**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 an increase in Total Property Crimes of 14.4% from last year. However, there is a decrease in Total Violent Crime by -8.1% 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 to attend 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.