



Wilshire Area Captain's Newsletter

Captain Shannon K. Paulson, Commanding Officer

April 9, 2021



Wilshire Area Crime Update – As of 4/8

Robbery	Up 36.9% (31 more robberies compared to this time last year)
Aggravated Assault	Up 4.2% (up 6 compared to this time last year)
Burglary	Down 16.1% (down 40 burglaries compared to last year)
Grand Theft Auto	Up 96.7% (116 more cars stolen than this time last year)
Burglary/Theft From Motor Vehicle	Down 9.8% (39 less cars broken into)
Violent Part I Crime in Total	Up 17.4% (41 more violent crimes than this time last year)
Property Part I Crime in Total	Down 8.0% (98 fewer property crimes)
Total Part I Crime	Down 3.9% (57 fewer overall serious crimes)

Homeless Encampments – LAPD's Authority and Role

A recent tragedy which occurred here in Wilshire Area has once again brought to the forefront the issues surrounding homeless and homeless encampments. Some of you, who were on the initial email distribution list when I began my newsletters last year, may recall I covered this issue at that time. Given recent events, it was suggested a revisit of the issue may be called for. Some of this may be repetitive for a few, but I would like to address the police department's roles and responsibilities, and in fact legal authorities, when it comes to homeless encampments. This is a rather involved topic, especially in today's day and age, so please forgive my long winded explanation.

As many of you are likely aware, given the current health crisis (Covid), our City's elected officials directed the Department to abstain from enforcement of many of the municipal codes which previously restricted encampments, tents, and other structures on public property. This was done in order to enable those persons experiencing homelessness to "shelter in place", be somewhat stable to enable testing and contract tracing, and to isolate or quarantine when necessary. As a result of this, the requirement for the homeless to break down their tents or structures each morning between the hours 6 am and 9 pm is currently in abeyance.

Bottom line, on public City property, to include sidewalks, homeless tents and "hooches" are currently allowed to remain standing 24/7. The two primary exceptions are if any such tent or structure or gathering of bulky property items is sitting in a position which does not permit free passage on the sidewalk (which has been generally defined as a minimum of 36 inch width passageway between the curb and the tent, building and tent, etc). The other exception is if the tent, structure or personal bulky property items blocks a doorway, gate or driveway. Officers can and will respond to gain the individual's cooperation to re-locate to a position leaving the a required sidewalk passageway or doorway/driveway free of obstruction.

In regards to private property, the health crisis and City's posture on enforcement has not changed in any way. This is because your private property is just that –yours. You can choose to allow, or not allow, parties on your property as you see fit. Should someone attempt to establish an encampment on a private parking lot, curtilage, etc, you have the authority to require them to leave.

Once warned, should they fail to leave the private property, they are trespassing and are subject to arrest if this refusal continues upon the arrival of officers or with the willingness to initiate a private persons arrest.

The answer to the primary question my officers frequently encounter from the public is, no – we cannot simply “move” or “get rid of” a homeless encampment that is erected on a public sidewalks, alley or greenbelt, except under those circumstances where they are clearly blocking passage – as in not allowing minimal passage.

When officers are made aware of non-law enforcement related complaints stemming from an encampment, they will make the appropriate notifications via the City’s 3-1-1 request for services and the engagement of those agencies who hold responsibility for such issues. We encourage you to do the same and to make your local elected officials aware of your concerns so they may assist you in gaining the services of those other public agencies.

Please – Just Be a Good Neighbor!

The past year has been unusual and challenging on many levels. As someone with almost three decades of law enforcement experience, I admit over this past year my officers and I have been met with increasingly unusual and unorthodox challenges. Many of the criminal and nuisance complaints we have been forced to address have been the clear result of the chronological overlap of several unique societal phenomenon: the social and political discontent and activism over a plethora of both very valid injustices as well as a blatantly anarchist resurgence; the emotional and psychological discontent and stress brought about by the Covid crisis and lockdowns; and, of course, the extreme polarization of politics coupled with the politicization of everything from social norms to health and science.

This “perfect storm” of issues has led to people seeking unorthodox outlets and avenues of relief or escape which are often injurious, in some manner, to others. We have dealt with conflict and controversy rarely before observed or experienced. I do not know how to teach an adult how to simply care about , and be compassionate or considerate to, other people... and the law does not permit me to require that at even a basic level. As a law enforcement officer, my only tool for this, beyond my intellect and power of persuasion, is the threat of enforcement of those laws written by society’s elected officials. I have found that, despite a national movement to defund and minimize police engagement in society, we have been called upon with increasing frequency to deal with just these sorts of disputes and conflict. Threats of police arrest, and following through on those threats, are all that I and my officers have left to try and deal with issues which society at large has failed to address on a multitude of levels, or which results from a simple failure to consider one’s neighbor.

So, for those of you who come out on weekends to turn our streets into a scene of dystopian lawlessness with your “takeovers” – your activities are not welcome and will not be tolerated ... my officers will (and have) come for you. For those who perhaps own homes which you have offered up as short term rentals through Air BnB, etc, know that if you do not engage in your due diligence and properly govern the activities on that property, you will be held responsible at some point. We do keep track and we will seek prosecution against repeat offenders. If you own a commercial property and you are tempted to rent it for use that perhaps could be considered a nuisance to your neighbors (for loud parties, or perhaps an unlicensed marijuana dispensary), again – please remember you have vicarious liability. We recently pursued criminal filings against just such a property owner and the “LLC” who rented the space, then advertised it for “events” which created havoc in the neighborhood (and violated health restrictions). Working with our Neighborhood Prosecutor we obtained criminal filings . Because those responsible parties failed to appear on their recent court date , warrants have been issued for their arrest (they will be served). As for the marijuana dispensary, if you knowingly rent to an unlicensed, illegal marijuana dispensary, you are committing a criminal violation and can be prosecuted.

Enforcement action and arrest should always be the last resort, and it can be largely avoided if people simply treated each other with respect and consideration. Ask yourself: would you want this going on next door to your home? Would you want this going on in the property next door to your business, or where your teenage children are employed or where they are a patron? Simply put, please, just be a good neighbor.

WILSHIRE RESIDENT NEEDS HELP

Last summer, a long-time resident of Mid-City was the victim of a violent and unprovoked crime in the comfort of his home. The 70 year old man, who resides alone, was home one afternoon when someone pried open his back door. The victim confronted the suspect inside of his home and, before fleeing, the suspect struck the victim in the face with a crow bar, inflicting serious and permanent injury. Wilshire patrol officers and detectives conducted a thorough investigation, recovering forensic evidence that was later used to identify the suspect. That suspect is in-custody and pending trial for this heinous crime.

A very independent man, this individual did not seek or desire assistance from neighbors or the community. However, since then, he has struggled to deal with the loss of eyesight in his right eye while remaining in complete isolation due to the pandemic. He has suffered additional medical emergencies stemming from this attack and complications from the injury. He has required hospitalization at times.

The Wilshire detective assigned to his case, in the course of her interactions, realized he was not one to ask for help. Nonetheless, she recognized the severity of the injury and impact of the crime. That detective and her husband (a lieutenant assigned to LAPD, Hollywood Division), in conjunction with another Wilshire sergeant, have combined their efforts to assist him. Over the past eight months, they have visited, provided support and company, conducted what minor repairs to his residence which they could, and acquired and donated items such as a microwave and a toaster to make his life easier and more comfortable.

However, greater assistance is needed which they are unable to provide alone. The victim's home is in need of repairs inside and out. His inability to maintain the yard adds to the unkept and unsecure appearance. The overall state of disrepair likely contributed to him being the victim of a second home break-in since the original assault. He is in fear that he will continue to be victimized and is unable to defend himself.

Wilshire Area personnel are committed to making every effort to improve his circumstances and prevent his further victimization. We are hoping to engage additional charitable and philanthropic members of the community who would be willing to help ensure an elderly and caring community member can once again feel safe and comfortable in his own home.

We have not yet determined the best route forward in this effort. The list of needed repairs is relatively lengthy, and includes issues best dealt with by trained professionals. These include roof repairs and electrical and plumbing work. However, it also includes things as straightforward as a massive yard overhaul with the removal of overgrown bushes and trees, the removal and replacement of a yard fence, and the towing/removal of a recreational vehicle abandoned in the yard years ago by an estranged and irresponsible family member.

At this time, our officers continue to visit and make what changes they are able to, as they formulate a plan of attack. It is likely we will be announcing the formation of a "Go Fund Me" account in the near future to assist in these efforts.

If you have any ideas or recommendations, or would be willing to support such an effort, please reach out to us. Any future contributions or assistance or aid you can provide to a fellow Mid-City community member and crime victim, will be greatly appreciated.

Preparedness for Minnesota Trial Outcome

I receive inquiries on a regular basis, from residents and business owners alike, regarding the Department's plans for any activity resulting from the outcome of the trial of the former police officer in the Death of George Floyd.

We do accept the likelihood there will be some level of public demonstration or protest, regardless of the outcome of the trial. Our posture will, as always, remain supportive of 1st Amendment speech and demonstration, and we will facilitate all such lawful actions. We stand ready, however, to immediately respond and suppress any blatant acts of criminal conduct. The manner of crowd management and crowd control we utilize will be based entirely on the actions and demeanor of any such crowd, and what behavior any organizers and participants choose to tolerate being associated with their message.

Despite the horrifying events and damage of May 30th and 31st here in the Fairfax and Melrose districts, please keep in mind that in the days immediately following, and progressing well into the summer months, Wilshire successfully facilitated dozens, likely over a hundred, peaceful protests. In conjunction with our neighboring jurisdictions, we oversaw the progression and successful completion of protests which numbered in the thousands, including several over 20,000, one over 50,000, and one right here on the streets of Fairfax and Wilshire which topped out at over 100,000.

The Department is engaged in a multitude of planning efforts involving both our regional partners and our own internal Department resources. Our Bureau (Operations-West Bureau) will have an additional personnel standing by to respond and support needs anywhere within our five divisions. We foresee the possibility we will go to some kind of modified staffing/work schedule involving increased deployment - whether that is a full Department mobilization, with cancelled days off, will depend on developments.

We currently have reason to believe the verdict, or at least jury deliberation, could commence during a period of April 21 to May 8. However, the most recent assessment is the trial is moving faster than originally expected. Obviously, we will be able to narrow that time frame as the trial progresses.

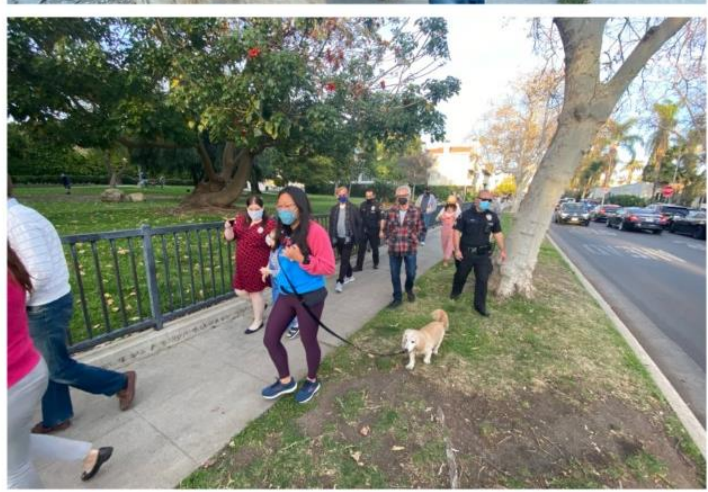
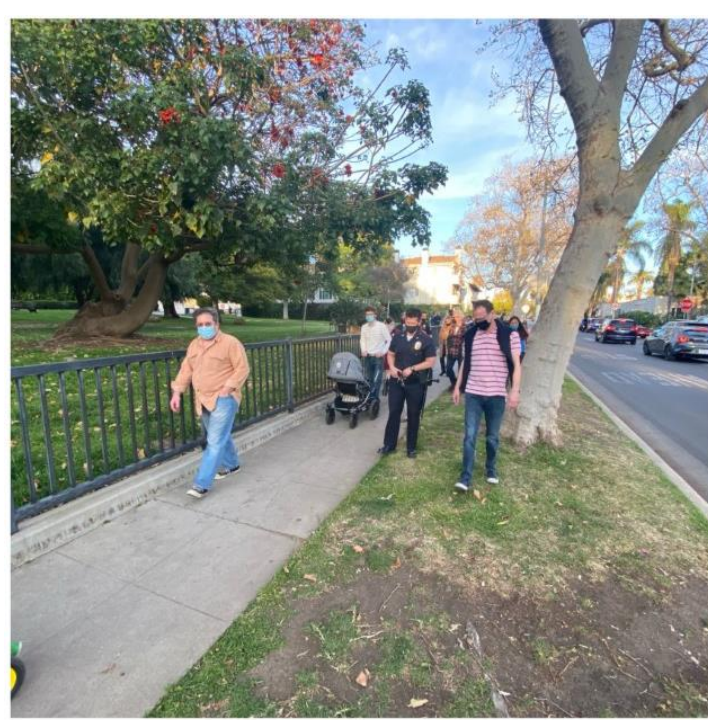
I want to put some facts and information out now before inevitable observations lead to rumor and unwarranted concern.

As we have seen in the past, the City of Beverly Hills has plans to shut down their business district, to include cement k-rails in place limiting vehicular access, etc. Please know this is a standing plan which they will implement in the interests of extreme caution. This will not necessarily be based on any specific intelligence indicating a threat to our region. I fully expect some of our business chains to receive similar guidance from their corporate headquarters (as we have seen for instance, from CVS in the past) and begin boarding up and securing their properties.

I know observations of these kinds of measures taking effect have led to public concern and almost panic in the past. Again, please understand a significant portion of actions of this nature will NOT be based on any clear indication of threat or danger, but are often a decision made well in advance as a precautionary measure, and then implemented universally across the entire region regardless of the actual known threat picture.

I will make every effort to share anything I can with you all as we move through this period and the developments it will likely bring. I strongly recommend you all follow Wilshire Division on Twitter, as in a hyperdynamic scenario this may be the quickest way for me to be able to communicate up to the minute information or warnings.

Here's some photos from our Melrose area community walk last week. Please let us know if your community would be interested in such an event.





COMMUNITY ALERT

Notification

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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BURGLARY



DR#	CRIME LOCATION	RD	DATE	TIME
2107-07205	600 Block of Seward Dr	0719	03/27/21	0620 Hours

SUSPECT(S): Male White or Hispanic, Bro/Bro, 30-40 YOA; black fedora, green long sleeve shirt, blue jeans, white/red New Balance sneakers, necklace, beard/goatee, white glove on right hand

PROP TAKEN: Purse

MO: Suspect entered attached garage and removed property. Suspect attempted to enter the home by removing a window screen but was unsuccessful. Suspect fled with property towards an unk location.

If you have any information regarding the identity of the suspect or circumstances regarding the crime, please E-Mail: dcars07@lapd.online
To report anonymously, please contact Crime Stoppers

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📍 2107-07205: 2107-07205 (0719)

📞 Call 8-666-7775 (0719)

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📱 📱 📱



COMMUNITY ALERT

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BURGLARY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

SUSPECT #1



SUSPECT #2



SUSPECT #3



DR#	CRIME LOCATION	RD	DATE	TIME
2107-06708	8500 BLOCK OF BEVERLY BLVD	0721	03/16/2021	1230 HOURS

SUSPECT(S): S-1: M/B, SHORT DREADLOCKS, BLK "NEW BALANCE" JACKET, BLK PANTS, WHT ADIDAS SHOES.

S-2: M/B, SHORT HAIR, GREY HOODIE, GRY SWEATPANTS, RED JORDAN SHOES.

S-3: M/B, BLK JACKET, GREY HOODIE, BLK PANTS, BLK SHOES.

PROP TKN: ROLEX (SILVER) WATCH & BLK JACKET

MO: SUSPS (1-3) WALKED DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PARKING LOT STRUCTURE FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES. SUSPECT-1 SMASHED RIGHT/REAR WINDOW OF VICTIM'S PARKED VEHICLE AND REMOVED VICTIM'S PROPERTY AND FLED ON FOOT TO UNKNOWN LOCATION.

If you have any information regarding the identity of the suspect or circumstances regarding the crime, please E Mail: des07@lapdonline.net
To report anonymously, please contact Crime Stoppers

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CRIME ALERT

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BURGLARY ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY

Camera4



DR#	CRIME LOCATION	RD	DATE	DAY/TIME
2107-04973	7000 BLK OF MELROSE AVE. (GARAGE)	0701	1/25/21	THURSDAY

PROP TAKEN: CAMERA BATTERIES

VICT VEHICLE: 2008 RANGE ROVER, BLACK

SUSPECT 1: MALE, BLACK HOODIE, BLACK PANTS, BLACK & WHITE SHOES

SUSP VEH: MAZDA, RED, 4 DOOR

MO: UNK SUSPECT PRIED AND SHATTERED REAR DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW. SUSP TOOK CAMERA BATTERIES AND LEFT LOCATION IN VEHICLE TO UNK LOCATION.

If you have any information regarding the identity of the suspect or circumstances regarding the crime, please E Mail: det907@lapd.online
To report anonymously, please contact Crime Stoppers

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