



# Wilshire Area Captain's Newsletter



Captain Shannon K. Paulson, Commanding Officer

January 15, 2021

## Wilshire Area Crime Update – As of 1/15

Below are the current crime rates for Wilshire Area as compared to this time next year. Please understand that while some of these may seem startlingly high, it is early and with numbers so small, the percentages are somewhat distorted in appearance (ie. 1 to 2 is a 50% increase). Of course, the opposite is true for reductions – some of the percentages may look very impressive, but are not truly that big a drop. As time moves on the numbers will shake out to be more understandable and reliable as far as a true comparison to last year and any trends, clusters or patterns.

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| <b>Robbery</b>                           | <b>Up 77.8%</b> (7 more robberies compared to this time last year) |
| <b>Aggravated Assault</b>                | <b>Down 8.7%</b> (down 2 compared to this time last year)          |
| <b>Burglary</b>                          | <b>Up 7.8%</b> (2 more burglaries)                                 |
| <b>Grand Theft Auto</b>                  | <b>Up 35.3%</b> (6 more cars stolen than this time last year)      |
| <b>Burglary/Theft From Motor Vehicle</b> | <b>Down 58.0%</b> (40 less cars broken into)                       |
| <b>Violent Part I Crime in Total</b>     | <b>Up 18.2%</b> (6 more violent crimes than this time last year)   |
| <b>Property Part I Crime in Total</b>    | <b>Down 39.7%</b> (73 fewer property crimes)                       |
| <b>Total Part I Crime</b>                | <b>Down 30.9%</b> (67 fewer overall serious crimes)                |

## **Auto Theft Continues to Plague Wilshire**

Auto theft was the predominant property crime in the City and the region throughout post-Covid 2020 (began seriously spiking around March/April) and this trend has continued into 2021. The main method continues to be cars left with the keys or key fobs inside. Please, even if you park in what you believe is a secure location (garage, etc) do NOT leave keys or key fobs in the vehicle.

**Over this past weekend period, 11 cars were stolen in Wilshire area . Of those, 6 (over 50%) were the result of keys being left in the car, or in two cases the car being left running and unattended as the owner ran into the local shop, etc.**

Most recently, we have seen growth in owners' use of cell phone apps, with newer vehicles, where the phone can be used to lock and unlock vehicles. As a result, more and more people are simply leaving key fobs permanently in their car, as they use the phone to unlock the car and simply press the ignition "start" button. Again – the bad guys know this. Once Covid restrictions end, you can bet suspects will be watching high traffic parking lots (malls, etc) and noting people who lock cars with phones – and they will know the fob is in the car.

Please take personal accountability to secure your belongings, harden the security at your residences and engage in safe personal habits.

**Please contact me if there are questions you have or topics you believe would be suitable to cover in the weekly newsletter.**

# VEHICLE THEFT RING TAKE DOWN IN WILSHIRE

On the evening of Tuesday, January 12, Wilshire patrol officers began monitoring a GPS tracking signal associated with a Mercedes Benz which had been stolen earlier in the day from the City of West Hollywood. They ultimately tracked the signal to a location in the northern end of Wilshire Division and observed the vehicle parked and unoccupied. Utilizing a ruse to prompt movement, the officers observed suspects exit a residence and were able to tie them to the stolen vehicle.

While securing the area and engaging in what officers refer to as a “protective sweep” to ensure no additional suspects are present to pose an immediate threat, the officers observed articles and equipment which appeared to indicate the residence was being used by a very technologically savvy and well organized vehicle theft ring. They secured the location and then obtained a search warrant for the property.

Ultimately, this investigation led to the discovery of three additional stolen vehicles on the property, all high end models, taken from locations throughout the City/region. Inside the residence, the officers located computer and printers which they were using to generate fraudulent/forged paper “dealer” or temporary registration plates from multiple states, narcotics and firearms, and an electronic device utilized to “boost”, or steal and then replicate, the signal from dealer key fobs (pictured to the right).



Both suspects had criminal histories and one had an upcoming court date resulting from a prior auto theft arrest (he was out on his own recognizance).

## DWP Utilities Shut Off at Short Term Rental/"Party House" in Wilshire

Earlier this week, the Mayor's Safer LA Task Force approved the shut off of DWP utilities to a known problem "party house" in the 800 block of North Curson Avenue. Wilshire officers had responded to repeated calls for loud party disturbances at this property on dates in September and October of 2020. In each of those instances the parties were cleared, citations were issued and the required violation notices/warnings were posted. Following established policies, proof of these violations, citations and warning notices were provided to the Mayor's Task Force.

Prior to the end of the year, the Task Force initiated contact with the previously cited renters/party hosts, as well as the property owner, and issued verbal warnings.

On January 9, 2020 at 11:00 pm, Wilshire Patrol officers responded on a radio call to the same residential location and observed approximately 40 persons at a party being held by a social media "influencer." With the assistance of multiple units the party was cleared, a citation was issued and the location was posted with the required SAFE LA Warning .

With the assistance and support of Councilman Koretz' office, the issues stemming from this location were again emphasized to the Mayor's Task Force. As a result , on January 12 at approximately 10:00 am, Wilshire officers accompanied DWP to the location where they successfully shut off the utilities under authority of the Mayor's Safer LA Task Force. There were no issues – it appeared the residence was empty at the time. Officers were present to keep the peace only, as this was an administrative City response and not a law enforcement action.