



January 14, 2021

Soledad Ursua, Chair
Eva Greene, Co-Chair
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**Venice Neighborhood Council, Public Health and Safety Committee
LAPD Pacific Division Crime Report - January, 2021**

Dear VNC Board Members and Members of the Public,

On January 6th, 2021, the Public Health and Safety Committee ("PHSC") officially held a public meeting. Pacific Division Captain Steven Embrich was present, along with multiple representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD"), and provided the Venice Beach Community with a current crime report. The following report is designed to brief the public of the meeting, and any findings.

LAPD Budget Reduction & Reorganization Updates

During this fiscal year, the LAPD is working with \$157 million less than expected budget due to the LA City Council's "Defund the Police" efforts, coupled with the City's current fiscal crisis. This drastic cut in their budget has resulted in major personnel changes and departmental reorganizations. For example, the LAPD has stopped hiring new recruits and will not be replacing personnel as they retire out.

The LAPD, along with the City Council has come to the agreement that there are certain calls that could be handled more efficiently by other City entities or alternative service providers, and have begun discussion on how to reroute calls as they are received. These calls generally involve homelessness, narcotics, drunk or disorderly conduct, and/or persons causing a disturbance, and currently account for approximately 20-30% of all radio calls.

The City's intent is to make transition as seamless and transparent to the user as possible. 911 dispatchers would receive instruction on where to route calls to ensure they are forwarded to the concerned agency. Since service providers do not work 24/7,



to the extent that a service provider agency is closed, LAPD will be called upon for fallback dispatch.

LAPD officers will still, however, respond to the following calls: suicide in progress, use of weapon, crime including brandishing firearm and/or weapon; jumper / suicide (where someone is standing over an overpass); and any call medical attention required. A summary of the proposed changes to calls are below.

Homelessness

Calls involving persons experiencing homelessness will be most often referred to either 211 (mental health crisis line) or to 311, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority ("LAHSA"), Los Angeles Sanitation ("LASAN").

Animal Off-leash

There were 1,187 off-leash animal calls last year, the majority of which came from the Oakwood Park area. LAPD will no longer respond to Animal off-leash calls, and these calls will be referred to the Department of Animal Regulation. LAPD does not have the appropriate animal collar sticks to take dogs into custody, and will only respond to an emergency call in a situation where they are closer in location than any entity able to respond.

Although radio calls for off-leash animals will be suspended, officers have discretion to enforce at will and issue tickets if a violation is noted.

Illegal Dumping

Last year the LAPD responded to 639 of these calls. All future illegal dumping calls will be referred to LASAN.

Transportation Related Issues

LAPD had previously responded to 5,845 calls. These calls, such as a malfunctioning traffic signal will be more appropriately forwarded to the Department of Transportation ("DOT"). Some traffic collision calls which don't involve a crime and which need to be recorded for insurance purposes will be referred to an online recording system.

Criminal Activity

The LAPD will no longer respond to the following: Vandalism under \$5000, burglary or theft from motor vehicles, a simple theft- as long as no domestic violence, a gun, or hate crime is involved. These calls will be referred to the community online reporting system. Narcotics and Vice activity will no longer be a dispatch call unless a suspect is still at the scene of the crime. Those calls will be referred to the Crimestoppers tip line. Embrich stated this system is already in place and has been working well thus far and that there is mandatory follow up.



Mental Illness

Over the last year, LAPD received 20,598 mental illness crisis calls. The LA County Department of Mental Health will be establishing Therapeutic Vans and will be able to deploy mental health practitioners. LAPD officers will still, however, respond to a suicide in progress and mental health episodes which involve the use of a weapon, require medical attention or if they are a jumper. LAPD will also partner with the Department of Mental Health, as they already do downtown, in making 51/50 evaluations and enforcements.

The newly created Didi Hirsch suicide prevention/mental health crisis hotline will soon become an available alternative to the public. Because this is a new hotline, it will not be available 24/7, and will be operating with limited hours, mostly in the evenings.

Death Investigations

Typically, a Police officer and a Supervisor is dispatched to all death investigations to ensure the death is natural and there are no suspicious circumstances. However, due to recent increased volume of calls and decreased staffing capacity, LAPD has modified its policy and death investigations will no longer be a police response if death occurs at a medical facility or at a personal residence (as long they have been attended to by a medical professional at residence).

LAPD will no longer be dispatched to every death investigation, only those which are deemed suspicious or "unnatural" or are exposed to the public.

Welfare check-in calls

Previously, LAPD would respond to Welfare check calls, whereby a concerned individual or a family would ask the LAPD to go out and check on and confirm the well-being of a close friend or relative. These calls will now be outsourced to alternative service providers.

Security Alarm Calls

LAPD will only be dispatched to calls to activated security alarms only if those alarms are first found to have a valid permit on hand.

Pacific Division Crime Stats

For the time period 12/13/2020 - 1/09/2021, compared to the previous 4 weeks, time period 11/15/2020 - 12/13/2020, Total Property Crimes are down 13.5% cumulatively. All property crimes are down, except for motor vehicle theft, which is up 12.3%.



Additionally, Total Violent Crime is down 21.7%. Officer Embrich acknowledged that some of the decrease could be attributed to seasonal factors, since many people have stayed home for the Holidays and have not left their home unattended.

When comparing crime statistics for Pacific Area Total, 2021 YTD, against 2020 YTD, Total Violent Crime increased 10.5%, notably with Robbery increasing by 20% and Aggravated Assault by 25%, as indicated in LAPD's Crime by Basic Car Report.

Specifically looking at the Beach Area/Ocean Front Walk (Car 14A11-Contreras) 2021 YTD, against 2020 YTD, Total Crime is up 109%. Total Violent Crime has increased by 800%, with Aggravated Assault up by 700%. Additionally, Total Property Crime is up 40%, most notably with Burglary Theft From Vehicle (BTFV) up 200%.

***As discussed in the PHSC December, 2020 meeting, 56% of those involved in aggravated assaults are experiencing homelessness, whether they are suspects, victims, or both.¹*

Stakeholder Questions

(Submission to publicsafety@venicenc.org)

Stakeholder Question: In light of new District Attorney George Gascon's recent election, where does the LAPD sit in terms of calls of trespass on private property?

LAPD Response: George Gascon was recently sworn in as the LA County District Attorney and provided a list of 9 directives. In light of this, LAPD interactions with the public will not change and will continue to arrest and file cases when appropriate, and continue to seek increased bail sentencing enhancements, in accordance with CA State law, primarily for gun possession and gang related charges.

While located within the County of Los Angeles, the City of LA is unique in that it has its own City Attorney's Office. Typically most misdemeanor filings are conducted by the City Attorney's Office, and the Los Angeles City Attorney's office has full intent to continue filing those misdemeanor cases, such as trespassing and do not need the District Attorney's office to file those. A resident living in an unincorporated area of LA County would face a different issue.

***LAPD has recommended that the PHSC invite a representative from the LA City Attorney's Office for a joint discussion at its next meeting.*

Stakeholder Question: We have seen statistics that 70% of people on Venice's streets are recently from somewhere else, and the data says that the lack of enforcement of most crimes is

¹ PHSC December, 2020 Report. <https://www.venicenc.org/safety-committee.php>



a powerful attractant to lifestyle criminals to our small residential community. The data also says that the rise in numbers of homeless in 2020 has been directly correlated with the rise in crime. What is a sensible threshold for the number of people allowed into Venice to occupy the sidewalks, and what in your view is an acceptable level of associated crime with people living here who are not from here, taking advantage of non-enforcement? Is there a maximum number, for people in tents allowed to live here for free with free services and benefits indefinitely, and a max number who can be from somewhere outside LA; and if not why not? It would seem to me that both limits have been far exceeded.

LAPD Response: Data shows that persons experiencing homelessness are associated with increases in crimes, which is shown in their data. Not only as suspects, or victims, but as suspects and victims.

***As discussed in the PHSC December, 2020 meeting, 56% of those involved in aggravated assaults are experiencing homelessness, whether they are suspects, victims, or both.²*

The LAPD is not able to provide an opinion with regard to the maximum number of people. As long as there is no ADA violation, there is no enforcement required. Violent crimes remain the #1 priority of LAPD, followed with property crimes.

Stakeholder Question: Recent homeless committee meeting, statements were made that gangs are operating in bridge housing is LAPD working to address this?

LAPD Response: SLO Contreras has begun having conversations with A Bridge Home staff. Yesterday was the first time for conversation bridge home staff regarding what they're seeing in the neighborhood, which is mainly drug transactions occurring on the perimeter and outside of the A Bridge Home. These meetings will occur bi-weekly going forward. While the Narcotics team have been working in the area, SLO Contreras has no current information on anything happening inside A Bridge Home.

Stakeholder Question: We keep hearing ADA is enforced, but we keep seeing sidewalks completely blocked. Classic examples are Venice Blvd and Electric.

LAPD Response: LAPD partners with LASAN to remove bulky items. LAPD is not able to simply give out a ticket, in order to enforce 56.11 and 41.18 (ADA enforcement), LAPD must issue a warning and give a reasonable amount of time to provide clearance. LAPD will cite/ticket if there is no movement, but has to give a reasonable amount of time. Oftentimes what is frustrating to both LAPD and neighbors is that Homeless individuals will comply and move their bulky items, only to move them back once LAPD drives away. Currently, the process starts over and LAPD must again provide warning and reasonable amount of time to move. LAPD is working with the City Attorney's office to revise this policy.

² PHSC December, 2020 Report. <https://www.venicenc.org/safety-committee.php>



Stakeholder Question: Bridge housing is in SECZ, whereby one of the regulations was "no tents." Now we have tents on main street which is problematic to residents. This situation is unsafe. Not only are they blocking the sidewalk, they are using their location as a vantage point watching homes in the area to break in when no one is home. What can LAPD do to honor the promise of SECZ enforcement, that no tents would be around Bridge Housing?

LAPD Response: Making people move because they are within the SECZ area is not within LAPD's policy. LAPD would have to now do an individual contact for each person under the ADA enforcement process (giving warning, waiting reasonable time, etc.). Additionally, there is little LAPD can do with COVID19 restrictions.

Stakeholder Question: I'm troubled by what appears to be worsening crime around town, and I have a question about my safety. I want to know the percentage of first time offenders versus repeat offenders around our district and in Venice. Also, can I have this separated into violent versus non-violent crimes?

LAPD Response: LAPD expects around 80% of people arrested to have a prior similar record, for both violent and non-violent crimes. For example, thieves who are arrested are likely to have a similar prior. The same goes for burglary, they will likely have a prior burglary. This 80% ratio occurs in Pacific Division, and is consistent across Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, a major problem today is COVID restrictions. For non-violent crimes, LAPD is in a position where they are releasing people as soon as they are booked, unless there are bail enhancements or special circumstances. Property crimes (such as Grand Theft Auto and robbery) won't achieve getting bail enhancements, they are only for violent crimes.

For example, if you were involved in a property crime or theft, you would be booked by the LAPD, but you would not go to jail or face arraignment. You would be due in court in about 3 months. There are very little immediate consequences. In one circumstance LAPD arrested a man 6 times in a row for Grand Theft Auto crimes, over a 6 week period. In one pursuit the man lost an arm, yet still went and stole another car after he was arrested and released.

Brian Averill, VNC Board Member Question-- Can LAPD provide and update regarding the recent murder of a female on Ocean Front Walk involving the dispute over a scooter? Have conflicts among gangs in Venice intensified?

LAPD Response: This is an ongoing investigation, which has not been solved, so LAPD cannot provide many details. LAPD does believe that gang members were involved as suspects, and as one of the victims. This may not necessarily be a gang feud, but perhaps a crime of opportunity. LAPD believe there is an ongoing feud between Venice shoreline and another gang located in South Los Angeles. LAPD has been working with their partners at Gang Reduction & Youth Development ("GRID"), which helped downsize tension.



Brian Averill, VNC Board Member Question: Could LAPD comment on Fast & Furious like street takeovers, for car racing, at crowded intersections such as Rose and Lincoln? Was anyone arrested?

LAPD Response: LAPD was onsite on Sunday and believes that they were spotted, so they chose another intersection- La Cienega & Centelia. From there they moved to Abbot Kinney and Venice, and then Venice and Lincoln. There were approximately 175 cars. The number of arrests are unknown, but some citations were issued. This is largely a social media planning event, which LAPD is unable to predict. These events seem to happen on Sunday evenings, and officers have modified their hours and shifts in preparation for future takeovers. LAPD's tactic is to deploy early to spoil takeovers, as soon as any crowd forming and LAPD shows up to disperse. Pacific Division has been working with other commanding officers and have similar problems, and their priority is to get an AirShip that can be available to fly over LA at any given time. There are currently 3 divisions talking about merging resources to arrest, seize cars, and impound seized cars.

CJ Cole, VNC Board Member Question: What else can the community do to help LAPD lower crime?

LAPD Response: The community should communicate with the LA County District Attorney's Office with regard to special directives and understand any modifications on enforcement.

The LAPD is trying to expand its volunteer force. LAPD has found that Citizen patrols help to deter property crimes and act as early spotters, since uniformed citizens driving marked City vehicles. The instincts of the Citizen are usually right, and they can radio for help, and can get a good arrest. The Community Police Academy is a primer on the LAPD and its operations. LAPD recommends this over the Neighborhood Watch Program as it gives you a good primer on what the LAPD can and cannot do.

***If you are interested in joining the Community Police Academy, please email publicsafety@venicenc.org to sign up or for more information.*

Conclusion: The Public Health and Safety Committee will continue to work with LAPD in order to address stakeholder concerns and questions, and reach out to other municipal departments.

Do you have a public health and safety question that you would like to be answered or addressed at our next meeting? Please email us:

publicsafety@venicenc.org

For Internal Use Only
Los Angeles Police Department
PACIFIC AREA
Part 1 Crime by Basic Car
YTD 2021 vs 2020 (Through 1/09)

PART ONE CRIME	14A11 (CONTRERAS)			14A13 (ACOSTA)			14A25 (VILLERY)			14A27 (CEJA)			14A45 (RAMIREZ)		
	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change
HOMICIDE	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C
RAPE	0	0	N/C	0	1	-100.0%	0	1	-100.0%	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C
ROBBERY	1	0	N/C	1	0	N/C	0	1	-100.0%	1	1	0.0%	1	0	N/C
AGG. ASSAULT	8	1	700.0%	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	1	-100.0%	3	1	200.0%
TOTAL VIOLENT	9	1	800.0%	1	1	0.0%	0	2	-100.0%	1	2	-50.0%	4	1	300.0%
BURGLARY	3	0	N/C	1	0	N/C	1	4	-75.0%	5	2	150.0%	2	3	-33.3%
GRAND THEFT AUTO	3	2	50.0%	2	0	N/C	1	1	0.0%	3	4	-25.0%	8	5	60.0%
BTFV	3	1	200.0%	0	1	-100.0%	5	4	25.0%	9	10	-10.0%	11	10	10.0%
THEFT	5	7	-28.6%	2	3	-33.3%	3	0	N/C	5	8	-37.5%	6	9	-33.3%
TOTAL PROPERTY	14	10	40.0%	5	4	25.0%	10	9	11.1%	22	24	-8.3%	27	27	0.0%
TOTAL PART ONE	23	11	109.1%	6	5	20.0%	10	11	-9.1%	23	26	-11.5%	31	28	10.7%

* RED denotes increase * BLUE denotes decrease * BLACK Denotes No Change * N/C = Not Calculable

PART ONE CRIME	14A49 (ACEVES)			14A67 (PINELL)			14A73 (CASTANEDA)			LAX (RD 1494)			Pacific Area Total		
	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD Change
HOMICIDE	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C
RAPE	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	0	2	-100.0%
ROBBERY	0	0	N/C	1	3	-66.7%	1	0	N/C	0	0	N/C	6	5	20.0%
AGG. ASSAULT	2	2	0.0%	2	5	-60.0%	0	0	N/C	0	2	-100.0%	15	12	25.0%
TOTAL VIOLENT	2	2	0.0%	3	8	-62.5%	1	0	N/C	0	2	-100.0%	21	19	10.5%
BURGLARY	0	1	-100.0%	3	5	-40.0%	5	4	25.0%	0	0	N/C	20	19	5.3%
GRAND THEFT AUTO	0	4	-100.0%	7	5	40.0%	2	1	100.0%	0	1	-100.0%	26	23	13.0%
BTFV	2	1	100.0%	8	7	14.3%	6	5	20.0%	0	2	-100.0%	44	41	7.3%
THEFT	0	4	-100.0%	0	7	-100.0%	1	2	-50.0%	0	16	-100.0%	22	57	-61.4%
TOTAL PROPERTY	2	10	-80.0%	18	24	-25.0%	14	12	16.7%	0	19	-100.0%	112	140	-20.0%
TOTAL PART ONE	4	12	-66.7%	21	32	-34.4%	15	12	25.0%	0	21	-100.0%	133	159	-16.4%



COMPSTAT

Pacific Area Profile

12/13/20 to 01/09/21



PACIFIC COMMAND STAFF		AREA COMMANDING OFFICER: Steven R. Embrich CAPT-III March 1, 2020 March 1, 2020 July 11, 1994		PATROL DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER: Brian A. Morrison CAPT-I February 3, 2019 February 3, 2019 March 21, 1994	AREA RANKING WEEK ENDING: 01/09/21 16 VIOLENT CRIME: PROPERTY CRIME: 18 PART I CRIME: 17
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CRIME STATISTICS for week ending 01/09/21

VIOLENT CRIMES	12/13/20 TO 01/09/21		11/15/20 TO 12/12/20		11/15/20 TO 12/12/20		10/18/20 TO 11/14/20		YTD 2020		YTD 2019		% Change		YTD 2018		% Change	
	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change
HOMICIDE	0	-100.0%	1	-100.0%	1	0.0%	0	N.C.*	0	0	0	0	0	N.C.*	0	1	0	-100.0%
RAPE (815,820,821)	1	-66.7%	3	-66.7%	3	200.0%	1	200.0%	0	1	0	1	0	-100.0%	0	1	0	-100.0%
TOTAL RAPE	1	-75.0%	4	-75.0%	4	100.0%	2	100.0%	0	2	0	2	0	-100.0%	0	1	0	-100.0%
ROBBERY	21	-4.5%	22	-4.5%	22	-12.0%	25	-12.0%	6	5	6	5	20.0%	6	12	6	12	-50.0%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	43	-23.2%	56	-23.2%	56	-11.1%	63	-11.1%	15	12	15	12	25.0%	15	17	15	17	-11.8%
TOTAL VIOLENT	65	-21.7%	83	-21.7%	83	-7.8%	90	-7.8%	21	19	21	19	10.5%	21	31	21	31	-32.3%

PROPERTY CRIMES

PROPERTY CRIMES	12/13/20 TO 01/09/21		11/15/20 TO 12/12/20		11/15/20 TO 12/12/20		10/18/20 TO 11/14/20		YTD 2020		YTD 2019		% Change		YTD 2018		% Change	
	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change
BURGLARY	70	-25.5%	94	-25.5%	94	-6.9%	101	-6.9%	19	19	19	19	0.0%	19	40	19	40	-52.5%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	82	-12.3%	73	-12.3%	73	-23.2%	95	-23.2%	25	24	25	24	4.2%	25	19	25	19	31.6%
BTFV	120	-14.9%	141	-14.9%	141	-2.4%	138	-2.4%	40	41	40	41	-2.4%	40	41	40	41	-2.4%
PERSONAL/OTHER THEFT	118	-17.5%	143	-17.5%	143	3.6%	138	3.6%	22	57	22	57	-61.4%	22	69	22	69	-68.1%
TOTAL PROPERTY	390	-13.5%	451	-13.5%	451	-4.4%	472	-4.4%	106	141	106	141	-24.8%	106	169	106	169	-37.3%
TOTAL PART I	455	-14.8%	534	-14.8%	534	-5.0%	562	-5.0%	127	160	127	160	-20.6%	127	200	127	200	-36.5%

Child/Spousal Abuse (Part I & II)*

Child/Spousal Abuse (Part I & II)*	29	-43.1%	51	-43.1%	51	28	82.1%	28	82.1%	9	8	12.5%	9	14	9	14	-35.7%
SHOTS FIRED	3	-25.0%	4	-25.0%	4	1	300.0%	1	300.0%	1	1	0.0%	1	2	1	2	-50.0%
SHOOTING VICTIMS	1	-50.0%	2	-50.0%	2	0	N.C.*	0	N.C.*	0	0	N.C.*	0	0	0	0	N.C.*

ARREST STATISTICS for week ending 01/09/21

ARRESTS	12/13/20 TO 01/09/21		11/15/20 TO 12/12/20		11/15/20 TO 12/12/20		10/18/20 TO 11/14/20		YTD 2020		YTD 2019		% Change		YTD 2018		% Change	
	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change	Count	% Change
HOMICIDE	0	-100.0%	4	-100.0%	4	0	0	N.C.*	0	0	0	0	N.C.*	0	1	0	1	-100.0%
RAPE	0	-100.0%	2	-100.0%	2	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	N.C.*	0	0	0	N.C.*
ROBBERY	6	0.0%	6	0.0%	6	8	-25.0%	8	-25.0%	3	0	0	3	2	3	2	50.0%	
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**	22	-24.1%	29	-24.1%	29	20	45.0%	20	45.0%	7	7	0.0%	7	15	7	15	-53.3%	
BURGLARY	7	-36.4%	11	-36.4%	11	9	22.2%	9	22.2%	2	0	0	2	6	2	6	-66.7%	
LARCENY	6	20.0%	5	20.0%	5	8	-37.5%	8	-37.5%	0	5	0	5	7	0	7	-100.0%	
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	7	-50.0%	14	-50.0%	14	12	16.7%	12	16.7%	5	6	-16.7%	5	3	5	3	66.7%	
TOTAL VIOLENT	28	-31.7%	41	-31.7%	41	29	41.4%	29	41.4%	10	7	42.9%	10	18	10	18	-44.4%	
TOTAL PART I	48	-32.4%	71	-32.4%	71	58	22.4%	58	22.4%	17	18	-5.6%	17	34	17	34	-50.0%	
TOTAL ALL ARRESTS	337	27.7%	264	27.7%	264	334	-21.0%	334	-21.0%	108	134	-19.4%	108	160	108	160	-32.5%	

*Part II Child/Spousal Abuse Simple Assaults not included in Part I Aggravated Assaults above to comply with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines.

**Statistics include domestic violence.

Statistics are based on the date the crime or arrest occurred.

Arrest statistics include arrests made by outside agencies.

N.C. - Not Calculable