



A note from the desk of..
CAPTAIN RAFAEL RAMIREZ
COMMANDING OFFICER
NORTH HOLLYWOOD AREA

Date: December 16, 2020

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

RE: STATUS OF THE NORTH HOLLYWOOD AREA

I hope you are doing well during these difficult times that we find ourselves in. This letter is to inform you on the status of the division regarding the crime rates, significant crime issues, and the challenges addressed by the community and the Police Department-North Hollywood (NHWD) Area in 2020.

North Hollywood Area Crime:

The NHWD Area (division) has achieved a 9.8% drop in Part-I crime in comparison to 2019. We are currently eighth in crime reduction among the 21 geographical Areas throughout the City. Part-I crimes include Homicides, Rapes, Robberies, Aggravated Assaults, Burglaries, Motor Vehicle Thefts, Burglary-Thefts from Motor Vehicles, and Personal or Other Thefts. The NHWD Area has seen significant decreases in Rapes (49 YTD vs. 81 in 2019), Burglaries (737 YTD vs. 880 in 2019), and Thefts (1,173 YTD vs. 1,703 in 2019).

Unfortunately, we have experienced an increase in three categories: Homicide (11 YTD vs. 7 in 2019), Aggravated Assaults (630 YTD vs. 566 in 2019), and Motor Vehicle Thefts (947 YTD vs. 685 in 2019). As to the Homicides, five of the eleven have been solved by the Homicide Unit from Operations-Valley Bureau (OVV). An analysis of the Homicides revealed (3) were acquaintance related, where the suspect and victims knew each other; (5) were gang-related; (1) was domestic violence related; and (2) involved strangers.

A closer look at the Aggravated Assaults show that 53% of these Assaults involved victims who did not know the suspects; in 39% of the cases (241 incidents) the victim or the suspect were homeless; in 23% of the cases (141 incidents), the crime involved domestic violence; and 10% of the cases (63 incidents) involved a gang crime. Detectives assigned these cases have been able to gather evidence, videos, and photographs of possible suspects during their investigations which have significantly helped in identifying and locating some of these suspects. Our Area Crime and Community Intelligence Center (ACCIC) develop and distribute crime flyers to the patrol officers from these pictures. This has enhanced our crime solving abilities in 2020. Many arrests have been directly related to the crime flyers.

The NHWD Area works in conjunction with a Domestic Abuse Advocate to educate and inform victims of domestic violence and offer services to break the cycle of violence. Information is also provided to the violators when they are arrested and booked into the jail system. Additionally, the North Hollywood Area send all of the violators a link to an informational video on domestic violence, including information on the applicable laws and services available to them and their partners.

Among these listed strategies is our combined efforts in identifying crime trends, crime clusters and crime spikes in the Area. The NHWD Area holds crime meetings daily, Monday through Friday, to discuss the crime from the prior day to assess any crime trends or clusters and to appropriately deploy available resources. The resources include the use of patrol officers, gang officers, undercover investigators and the volunteer program, including volunteers in uniform and our very successful Community Empowerment and Surveillance Enterprise (CEASE) program.

North Hollywood Area Concerns:

During the year, we filled two of our Senior Lead Officers (SLO) positions with Police Officer Cesar Gonzalez in Basic Car 15A27 and Police Officer Jonathan Ojeda in Basic Car 15A39. We have a SLO assigned to every basic car now, which is of great benefit to us in our crime fighting strategies and to the communities they serve. Although, the SLOs were assigned to other responsibilities and duties this year due to the civil unrest and the Covid-19 pandemic, they are back in the division and addressing your concerns.

Many of the issues they are tackling comprise of the crime problems in their respective areas and homeless issues, including the encampments and the RV parking. The NHWD SLOs continue to work with the OVB-Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team to contact the homeless population and offer services and housing to reduce the risk of being victimized out on the street. The NHWD Area is working with Council District (CD)-2 and Hope of the Valley to increase housing for the homeless and provide them the necessary resources and services. The opening of the Bridge Housing and the development of the Tiny Homes will hopefully reduce the numbers of homeless individuals living in the streets and on the sidewalks.

Challenges Facing the LAPD:

The North Hollywood Community Police Station front desk has been closed since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The virus has also impacted our volunteer program and our juvenile programs, reducing their participation. These are among the many strategies and programs that have been impacted in 2020. We are slowly bringing back our volunteers and our juvenile Cadet program. We look forward to bringing these programs back in 2021 with the hope of the distribution of the new vaccine. This should also assist us in re-opening our front desk. We encourage those individuals who would like to volunteer to contact our Community Relations Office to begin the application process. Your assistance will benefit our operations and the safety of our communities.

In the meantime, to streamline telephone wait times, we encourage our communities to utilize the CORS system to file police reports. People can access CORS via www.LAPDOnline.org. Reports can be filed under the following categories: Harassing Phone Calls, Lost Property, Vandalism, Theft, Theft by Vehicle, and Hit and Run. For more information, please visit the www.LAPDOnline.org

Lastly, thank you to all our community members who stepped forward during these difficult times to show support for the LAPD and the North Hollywood Officers. The Community-Police Advisory Board, the Police Activity League Supporters (PALS), the faith leaders, the neighborhoods in the area and the local schools that brought in goodies for the officers or nice cards of appreciation. No matter how big or small these gestures were, our officers are very grateful for the support that this community gives us, and it keeps their spirits high.

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As we have said throughout the year, we will get through this together and we look forward to better times in 2021.

No matter what you do or where you are this Holiday Season I want to wish you all the best. Be safe and enjoy your families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Ramirez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RAFAEL RAMIREZ, Captain
Commanding Officer
North Hollywood Area.