

Summary of Coffee with a Cop, 9-14-24

Overview of the Burglary Situation

Senior Lead Officer Chris Baker provided an overview of the recent spike in residential burglaries in the Cheviot Hills area. He mentioned that there were 29 burglaries in a 60-day period during May, June, and July. He also noted that the situation appeared to be picking up again in recent days.

LAPD's Measures to Address the Burglaries

Officer Baker outlined various measures taken by the LAPD to address the burglary issue, including deploying Z-cars (proactive patrol units), plainclothes and undercover units, the Metropolitan Division for crime suppression, foot patrols, helicopter flyovers, and high-visibility patrols during late-night hours. He also discussed the use of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology and the importance of community involvement through neighborhood watch programs and securing homes.

Recent Arrests and Investigations

Officer Baker discussed recent arrests made in connection with the burglaries, including a crew caught after a neighbor provided their license plate information, which was tracked using the Flock ALPR system. He also mentioned that DNA evidence from a burglary scene led to an arrest. Additionally, he provided details about a specific burglary attempt on Butterfield Road, where suspects were apprehended after a pursuit and perimeter setup.

Involvement of Other LAPD Officials

Captain Rich Gabaldon, the area captain at West Los Angeles division, provided an overview of the division's size and resources. Captain Anthony Espinoza, the Commanding Officer of the Innovation Management Division, discussed the LAPD's plans to implement real-time crime centers and expand the use of ALPR technology. Liz Rhodes, a civilian employee overseeing constitutional policing, encouraged community members to voice their concerns and suggestions to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Concerns about the Judicial System

Some community members expressed frustration over the perceived leniency in sentencing and the quick release of arrested individuals by the judicial system. Officer Baker acknowledged that the LAPD's role is limited to making arrests and presenting cases, while the judicial system handles sentencing and convictions.

Community Engagement and Private Funding

Lenny Sands, an LAPD specialist, highlighted the need for community engagement and private funding to support initiatives like ALPR cameras. Cindy Kane, representing the Cheviot Hills HOA, discussed efforts to raise funds and install ALPR cameras in the community through private donations and the formation of a 501(c)(3) organization.

Senior Lead Officer Chris Baker's contact info

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Action Items

- Email Officer Chris Baker to be added to his weekly email list for updates and information.
- Email Officer Chris Baker to schedule a home assessment and walkthrough to identify vulnerabilities and security measures.
- Email Officer Chris Baker to request vacation checks while away from home.
- Participate in neighborhood watch programs and get to know your neighbors.
- Consider donating to the Cheviot Hills HOA's efforts to install ALPR cameras in the community.
- Attend Board of Police Commissioners meetings to voice concerns and suggestions regarding policing and crime in the area.
- Secure homes by locking windows and doors, setting alarms, and considering measures like glass break sensors and security film.
- Be vigilant and report suspicious behavior or vehicles to the LAPD.
- Implement measures to create the illusion of an occupied home, such as leaving lights or radios on when away.
- Avoid discussing travel plans or valuables within earshot of service providers like ride-share drivers.