

ACONA Meeting Notes
November 5, 2013

After introductions, the following topic was discussed:
Altadena Sheriff's station; Capt. John Benedict, Lt. Erik Lasko, Dty. Mike Spina, Sgt. Allen Harris, Matt Bossier

Recent shootings near Glenrose and Altadena Drive

Two people hit at a barber shop, neither of them the intended victim.

Stats on lowered violent crimes in Altadena

Gang shootings are down from last year, 20 incidents vs. 13 (check this number). Overall violent crime is down 31%. down 55% from five years ago. Crime statistics:
<http://shq.lasdnews.net/content/uoa/ALD/110513.pdf>

Gang activity

PDL: Pasadena Denver Lane (Bloods)

ABC: Altadena Blocc Crips

(Problems at Glenrose/Altadena are related to the above two) ABC is mostly the target these days because the Sheriffs took ABC ringleaders off the street.

SLG: Squiggley Lanes Gang (Bloods)

RAC: Raymond Avenue Crip

Gang unit: OSS - Operation Safe Streets

Main gang concentration is SW Altadena, along the border w/ Pasadena (three of the four gangs above are Pasadena gangs)

History: Gang members are joining together and forming alliances, burglarizing homes. Crimes are branching out, avoiding things that end them up doing long jail time. Burglaries are lower risk, result in lower jail time.

What you as neighbors can do to continue the downward trend in violent crimes

Phone calls to the station, to Sgt. Harris 626-296-2116 about gang behavior in particular, reporting suspicious behavior, gunshots, unknown cars or people on the block... If you hear something, say something. Fear of involvement keeps information from tipsters from playing a very large role.

Property crime

There is an increase in these types of crimes in Altadena. Burglaries are down but larceny (petty theft, theft from cars, etc.) is up. Grand theft auto is up. Arson is down. Communication is key: if you or your neighbors are having service people come to your home, let your neighbors know. That way, if someone comes to your house and you haven't let your neighbors know, they can report it. Neighborhood Watch practices. Cover your shopping and valuables if you are leaving them in the car, don't leave items out on the porch or in your open car as you go into your house. Don't become a victim of opportunity crime.

Reporting crime

First: Call the sheriff's station as soon as something happens.

Crime Stoppers 800-222-TIPS (8477). www.LACrimeStoppers.org. Text TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637) Not the preferred method because of the lag time, but better than not reporting a crime.

Neighborhood Watch can be a deterrent to criminals.

Open Q&A

Home invasion robberies: are they happening in our area? Lt. Lasko: Clarification: home invasion robberies are when you are in the home and someone comes in. (Capt. Benedict: home invasion robberies are rare.) Burglaries do happen. They are down, but when it happens to you, that statistic doesn't have much meaning.

Is there an age range for gang members? Sgt. Harris: there's no age limit.

I've seen a lot of people with back packs. Is that a concern? Sgt. Harris: I haven't seen it here yet, but that's a typical gang technique -- they put a balloon or something like that in their back pack, then break into a home and replace it with stolen goods.

Is putting used furniture etc. out on the curb an attractive nuisance? Sgt. Harris: No.

What about people who are non-English speakers? Lt. Lasko: We can set up a three-way call with an interpreter.

Comment: My neighbors are saying they're calling the sheriff's station and getting attitude. Capt. Benedict: Let us know so we can deal with it.

Community-Oriented Policing Services - COPS - teams can come out if there are many complaints about an area or a situation, quality of life issues (loitering, drunken behavior, homeless people...)

Is it safe to jog at night? Yes, just use your common sense. Less than 1% of Altadenans are in a gang.