

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 642522, Los Angeles, CA 90064

www.northwestdale.com



North Westdale

groups.yahoo.com/group/NWNA

**SMO
UPDATE**

NWNA MEETING

March 28, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church - Nolte Hall
11555 National Blvd., 90064

Guest Speaker: Suja Lowenthal

Senior Advisor to the Santa Monica City Manager
(SMO update with Q&A)

**SMO
UPDATE**



Photo by Jonathan Fanelli

Most attendees with officer Acosta (upper right)

Neighborhood Walk on Anti-Crime Education

by Joan Winters, NWNA Secretary

On Feb. 25, a quiet Sunday morning, our Senior Lead LAPD Officer Adrian Acosta walked with approximately 15 North Westdale neighbors and spoke about crime prevention. This is his second walk within our community, and he wants to schedule more.

We met at the corner of Barry Ave. and Clarkson Rd. and walked up Barry, ending at Berkshire. This was a very educational tour as Adrian spoke to us on his knowledge on crime prevention and common sense ways we can improve our safety that actually don't have to be that expensive. He pointed out one of his pet peeves, trash receptacles left out in front yards and visible side-yards. We spotted many on our one-block walk. Also noted were large, heavy plant containers which, like trash containers, can be used by thieves to hoist themselves up over a gate, wall, or fence. Locating them elsewhere is an easy way to slow crime at your residence. Adrian also mentioned that about 70% of places hit by crime have been left wide open, and that crimes

are happening more in daylight. If you see something wrong, say something. He discussed the differences in calling 911, which are for crimes in progress, and calling the non-emergency number (877) ASK-LAPD which can be used when you suspect suspicious activity but don't actually see an actual crime being committed. Adrian also brought to our attention some safety features that he likes, such as motion sensor lights and cameras. He pointed out some parked cars that are attractive to break-ins, with cell phones and GPS devices on display, coins left visible in a container, and parking passes left hanging when not in use. SMCC parking passes are popular for thieves to steal, which they can sell for around \$20.00. In homes, he noted that mostly cash and jewelry are taken and that it usually takes about five minutes to be burglarized. Adrian cited people who drive-through our neighborhood and others brought here on the Expo line from other areas, as some who might commit crimes here. In answer to my two questions, he mentioned that the Pacific Police Department represents our area, and that the West Los Angeles Police Department represents the community starting near the 10 freeway. I also asked if we are getting more squad cars, and he said that the Pacific Division now has 16 more officers which covers the shifts of 8 officers per basic car--which comes to two more police cars for the Pacific area. With the additional cars the police have been more productive in making arrests he said.

Officer Acosta would like to lead another walking tour this summer towards the evening hours, around 8 PM. and mentioned that things look different in the evening than they do in daylight, and he would like to point out those differences from his perspective on how our neighborhood looks. Another plus to these crime prevention walks is they are a good place to meet your neighbors and bond with them on incidents occurring in our community. You might even want to exchange phone numbers! These walks show us the ever-changing picture of where we live, and can make us more aware. In my area, it was pointed out that there have been car break-ins and attempted break-ins within just a short block. Also, it is very important to document these incidents so that the Pacific Division has records of them as patrol-car assignments are made to areas with reported crimes.

