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Subject: FYI  
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To:



**MESSAGE SENT TO HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S ASSISTANT**

Chief O'Brien has asked me to provide you with an update regarding recent vehicle burglaries:

Due to the recent uptick in vehicle burglaries occurring on the west side of Hollywood, specifically in the Emerald Hills, L'Etoile, Hillcrest, Hollywood Gardens, and Club Vault (North 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue) areas, we have taken a proactive approach to this problem and have increased patrols in the affected areas. We are utilizing additional resources and technology to help prevent these crimes from happening. An operational plan was established to document the police department's efforts. Officers have been assigned in unmarked and marked police vehicles. In addition, officers have addressed other concerns in these areas, including reckless driving complaints through high-visibility traffic enforcement and patrols.

Since increasing patrols these past few weeks in response to the increase in vehicle burglaries, numerous enhanced patrols and operations were conducted, resulting in the arrest of one subject on Sarazen Drive and North 37<sup>th</sup> Street. On the morning of February 17, 2023, the Emerald Hills area did experience a rash of burglaries. The on-duty shift commander confirmed officers were assigned to the area and L'Etoile for the past few nights. However, at approximately 3:18 a.m., a report of a stabbing was dispatched, which diverted some of the police resources.

In continuing the operational focus of combating vehicle burglaries in the affected areas, our response to this recent increase in criminal activity will continue to involve a comprehensive and coordinated effort to prevent crime, increase community outreach and education, and enhance our investigative capabilities to include the use of technology and evidence recovered from burglarized vehicles. In addition:

- Additional personnel has been scheduled on overtime and regular duty to increase our patrols and presence.
- Additional covert operations are planned as we have identified a common method of operation and pattern of these burglary suspects, specifically in the Emerald Hills area.
- Issue a public service announcement through the police department's Public Information Officer advising of the method of operation in which video evidence has shown these criminals are committing these crimes:
  - *"The common method used by criminals is to try door handles to break into cars. This is a common tactic used by opportunistic thieves looking for unlocked vehicles with valuables inside. Thieves have also smashed vehicle windows to remove valuable objects in plain view. In many cases, these thieves will walk through a neighborhood or be trailed by a slow-moving getaway vehicle, checking car doors to see if they are unlocked. If they find an unlocked car, they may quickly steal any valuables or the entire car. This can happen very quickly and often goes unnoticed by the vehicle owner until it is too late. To prevent this type of crime, it is essential for vehicle owners to always lock their doors and remove any valuable items from plain sight. This can include items such as purses, wallets, electronics, and other personal belongings. Additionally, parking in a well-lit area and installing a security system or alarm on your vehicle can also be effective deterrents. The Hollywood Police Department will continue to work to educate the public on the importance of taking these preventative measures and to increase patrols in the affected areas to help deter criminal activity. We appreciate your help in keeping our community safe and secure and ask that you contact the Hollywood Police Department to report any suspicious activity."*

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