



Wilshire Area Captain's Newsletter



Captain Shannon K. Paulson, Commanding Officer

June 6, 2021

Wilshire Area Crime Update – As of 6/4

Robbery	Up 28.7% (37 more robberies compared to this time last year)
Aggravated Assault	Down 22.8% (down 77 compared to this time last year)
Burglary	Down 46.3% (down 260 burglaries compared to last year)
Grand Theft Auto	Up 46.2% (108 more cars stolen than this time last year)
Burglary/Theft From Motor Vehicle	Down 10.3% (64 less cars broken into)
Violent Part I Crime in Total	Down 6.2% (down 30 compared to this time last year)
Property Part I Crime in Total	Down 14.6% (298 fewer property crimes)
Total Part I Crime	Down 13.0% (328 fewer overall serious crimes)

Grand Theft Auto Continues to Plague Wilshire

Two primary issues continue to contribute to the high rate of auto theft occurring the Mid-City region: keys left in vehicles and repeat offenders.

Each week somewhere between 30% and 50% of the vehicles stolen in Wilshire Area are the result of keys being left in the vehicle or the vehicle actually being left running as people step out for a “quick errand,” etc. We can’t seem to say it enough – please secure your vehicles and ALL keys and key fobs whenever you exit your vehicle and leave it unattended, no matter how “brief” you believe that period may be.

The second issue that appears to be contributing enormously to our crime rate, and especially to our GTA rate, is our inability to keep them in jail for any period of time. Current practices, the result of Covid restrictions as well as policy changes, frequently result in the immediate release of subjects arrested for property crimes.

A recent case involving a Wilshire stolen vehicle epitomizes this issue:

On May 28, one of our LAPD helicopters was directed to a specific area to conduct a search for a Wilshire stolen vehicle which was being tracked via a GPS transponder. He located the vehicle, a 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pick up. As that vehicle continued to drive, the airship coordinated the response of patrol units and the vehicle was ultimately stopped in LAPD’s Newton Area (south of downtown, east of the 110 freeway). The driver, a 20 year old male, was arrested for the stolen vehicle. At the time of his arrest he was found to be armed with a .22 caliber revolver.

A review of this individual’s recent arrest history revealed a concerning pattern (it should be noted this subject did have additional felony arrests and convictions prior to 2020):

- On March 24, 2020, he was arrested in Newton Area (LAPD) for driving a stolen vehicle (and DUI). The charges for driving stolen vehicle, DUI, and driving on a suspended license were all dismissed by the D/A.
- On May 7, 2020 (six weeks later), he was arrested again in Newton Area (LAPD) for Grand Theft Auto and released immediately on “zero bail.”
- On May 24, 2020 (three weeks later), he was arrested in Southeast Area (LAPD) while driving a stolen vehicle and was released on “zero bail.”
- On May 25, 2020 (yes – the next day), he was arrested in Newton Area (LAPD) for driving a stolen vehicle and was released on “zero bail.” This case was subsequently combined with his subsequent July 3, 2020, arrest.
- On July 3, 2020, he was arrested by Newton Area (LAPD) for driving a stolen vehicle. This case was combined with the May 24, 2020, case and on July 27, 2020 he was convicted and sentenced to 16 months probation.
- On February 18, 2021, he was arrested by Downey PD for being involved in the theft of catalytic converters. The D/A declined to file the case for prosecution.
- On February 20, 2021 (two days later), he was arrested by 77th Area (LAPD) for driving a stolen vehicle (at that time he was still on probation for vehicle theft). The D/A again rejected the case.

Undeniably, this legal issue will continue to pose challenges to our ability to reduce or prevent crime. In an effort to combat this, your Wilshire Area detectives conduct exhaustive reviews of a subject’s criminal record immediately following an arrest. When appropriate, they are utilizing patterns of this nature (and the fact arrestees committed crimes while out on “zero bail”) to enhance bail amounts and prevent arrestees from being released on “their own recognizance.” This must be done immediately (to prevent the frequent “zero bail” release), and frequently requires a significant amount of diligence and aggressiveness on the part of officers.