

12011 GOSHEN AVENUE CONDO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SAFETY MEETING

12011 Goshen Avenue

September 13, 2011

7:00 pm

Call to Order: Carlton Oliver, HOA president, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending. Condominium residents present were Carlton and Molly Oliver (#103), Blanche Davidson (#204), Joan Shanedling (#201), Mark Rutstein (#301), Cathy Deutmeyer (#105), May Gasparks (#102), Linda Pfeffer (#304), Shelley Kraft/Ari Rubinstein (#101), and Nancy Zala. Also present were Marylin Krell, President, South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA), and Roz Gamble, Secretary/Treasurer/Multi-family rep (SBRA), and Senior Lead Officer Phillip Enbody and Officer Gonzales, WLAPD.

The meeting had been called as a result of an incident on the first floor some weeks ago. Berti Klein had an idea to get safety measures in place and reached out to Marylin Krell, President of South Brentwood Residents Assoc. (SBRA) Marylin described SBRA and noted it represents all multi-family residences throughout Brentwood, but it is hard to reach these residents. SBRA welcomes any condominium or apartment building as a member; dues are \$50 for up to 15 units, \$75 for 16 plus units. SBRA holds an annual meeting with elected officials as guest speakers including Assemblymember Mike Feuer, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and Sr. Lead Officer Phillip Enbody. SBRA has worked with many groups of residents who have been concerned about proposed development in their neighborhood and have facilitated meetings with residents and developers. SBRA also sends members emails regarding issues of special interest to our neighborhood such as coyote sightings, street closures and community events such as the upcoming Coral Tree event on September 24, 2011 where Betty White will be the guest. Marylin invited everyone to join SBRA. You can read about SBRA at the website: www.southbrentwood.org. Carlton said membership in SBRA would be discussed at a future board meeting.

Max described the incident three weeks ago where he was disturbed at 4:10 am. He had left a window open in the bedroom and heard a sliding door open. He saw two men running on the sidewalk. Max saw them looking and hiding behind a bush. One was in short-sleeved white shirt. He called 911 and then called again 30 minutes later. An officer arrived in an unmarked car. Four cars patrol the area and they have dark jackets to cover their badges in order to apprehend suspects. Following this incident, the residents now close their windows.

Officer Enbody explained he is the Senior Lead Officer for Brentwood and it encompasses 17 square miles and 35,000 people. Officer Gonzales area is 20 square miles and 40,000

people in Century City and Cheviot Hills. The WLAPD station is on Butler Avenue and the WLA total area of 65 square miles is larger than San Francisco. It is the largest division in the city. There are seven basic cars and one serves Brentwood. Each car backs up the other so if one car is busy, another takes its place and they overlap... especially during times of more activity. As a result, there can be three or four or zero cars in Brentwood at any given time. There are also Z-cars; this is an auto detail to arrest car thieves. Officer Enbody explained that residents of Brentwood have luxury cars and they tend to leave their possessions in unlocked cars. They feel safe but there has been crime. He described the recent theft of a Rolex watch from a resident in the street.

Crimes are now moving up to Sunset but they will come back to this area. Officer Enbody urged everyone not to leave possessions in cars, to lock doors, set the alarm – these are the best deterrents. He distributed a handout. Do not put possessions in the trunk in case you are being watched and they can pop a trunk in seconds; take your possessions with you. Look around and be aware of your surroundings when walking. Cover up expensive jewelry when driving or walking. Always lock the door of your home, close windows and set the alarm even when sleeping. The alarm will deter intruders as they look for easy victims.

Officer Enbody said he would do a walk-through of the building and check any potential safety/security issues. He noted that plants/shrubs provide hiding places and mentioned the video tape on the Brentwood Community Council's website showing two men casing a property – the alarm scared them off.

One of the residents commented that the rear entry door does not always lock and sometimes the front door doesn't either.

Officer Enbody recommended waiting a few moments after driving out of the garage to confirm the garage gate has closed behind you before driving away. He also added that unit doors can be easily kicked open.

There was a question about owning a gun and shooting an intruder. Officer Enbody did not feel there was a need to own a gun and that you must prove the intruder was advancing towards you and threatening you if you fire a gun. He spoke about a recent incident where the family of a burglar sued the homeowner(s) he was burgling because they shot him.

There was discussion of people requesting access at the front door intercom. It is \$15,000 to replace the current intercom system. Officer Enbody recommended not buzzing anyone in unless you know them. The president said that, in fact, there was a fake camera at the front of the building.

There was mention of a rape about 8 years ago in Ralphs parking lot at Bundy/Wilshire. He was caught and there has been nothing since and Ralph's now has a security guard there.

Officer Enbody discussed traffic and that it would continue to get worse until the widening of the 405 freeway is completed. Marilyn Krell noted that there will be a loss of two lanes on Wilshire Boulevard to dedicated bus lanes, probably after the freeway work is completed. Officer Enbody warned against road rage; 70% of vehicle related incidents are due to road rage particularly at Barrington and Sunset. He said never get out of your car to “educate” another driver. You do not know if he/she has a gun.

Officer Enbody distributed his business card and invited the residents to contact him by email at 24914@lapd.lacity.org or (310) 444-0744.

There was discussion of quality of life disturbances from neighbors’ parties especially one from a couple of weeks ago in a complex a few doors down. It started at 8:00 am and was still going at 3:00 or 4:00 am. Officer Enbody told everyone to call 1-800-ASK-LAPD – this is a non-emergency number. Response time can be five minutes or 1 ½ hours depending on the level of activity at that time. Officer Enbody sends out a weekly Crime Report including the block, date and time of the incident. He described the theft of a safe and the neighbor followed the suspects who escaped in a silver Audi. Officers are looking for incidents such as these that provide vital information so they can apprehend the perpetrator(s).

Officer Enbody also spoke about www.AlertCommunity.com. If you see a suspicious person or activity, you can report it to the website and WLAPD uses this information to solve other crimes. The site has been available for approximately seven years and is presently being redesigned.

Officer Enbody discussed transients on private property. He said to tell them to move or they will be arrested. The majority are from the VA. Do not give them money as they can earn \$100/hr, especially those at the intersection of San Vicente and Wilshire. There are four regular transients in Brentwood on San Vicente. Call Officer Enbody and report them.

Marilyn Krell asked how a group in the community could find out when something is going on. Officer Enbody suggested Block Captains where they create their own system. He suggested reaching out to the buildings next door and connecting with neighbors.

This concluded Officer Enbody’s safety presentation and the group offered their grateful thanks to Officer Enbody and Officer Gonzales, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Roz Gamble, Acting Secretary