I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! 2016 was a difficult time in law enforcement, so as we begin 2017, we are looking forward to continuing to build our community-police partnerships and progress as a Department. As an organization, we are constantly implementing new and groundbreaking training to improve officers’ skills and ensure that they are at the forefront of law enforcement. Among them, Procedural Justice and Implicit Bias training is being taught throughout our Department to enhance our policing strategies and be the most effective for the community. Implicit Bias training focuses on our ability to acknowledge that we all have bias whether they stem from our background or experiences. By first acknowledging these biases we can then recognize and separate them in order to police objectively. Procedural justice is a framework with which officers can build effective policing efforts in their communities as they interact with the public in all situations. Procedural Justice includes four main pillars: 1) Fairness; 2) Voice; 3) Transparency; and 4) Impartiality. By employing these four pillars, it builds the practice of treating the public in all encounters fairly; providing them with the opportunity for voice during the interaction; and ensuring the process of the interaction is transparent and impartial, thus demonstrating respect. When the principles of procedural justice are applied—in all interactions—there is a greater willingness by the public to voluntarily obey the law and cooperate with the police, consequently decreasing overall crime rates and enhancing officer safety (Sunshine & Tyler, 2003).

I am humbled and grateful to work for such a wonderful City and lead the men and women of the Gardena Police Department. Law enforcement is entering a new era of policing, and we stand ready to take on the challenges ahead of us. We are so thankful for the continuous support of our community and the partnerships we forged. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, please feel free to contact me at: (310) 217-9601, or chief@gardenapd.org.
10 Things You Can Do to Avoid Fraud

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. Here are some practical tips to help you stay a step ahead.

1. **Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Do not send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.

2. **Do online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like “review,” “complaint” or “scam.” Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like “IRS call.” You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.

3. **Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren’t always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.

4. **Don’t pay upfront for a promise.** Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job. They might even say you’ve won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.

5. **Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don’t. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it’s nearly impossible to get your money back. That’s also true for reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit or Vanilla. Government offices and honest companies won’t require you to use these payment methods.

6. **Talk to someone.** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.

7. **Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up and report it to the FTC. These calls are illegal, and often the products are bogus. Don’t press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list. That could lead to more calls.

8. **Be skeptical about free trial offers.** Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. And always review your monthly statements for charges you don’t recognize.

9. **Don’t deposit a check and wire money back.** By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you’re responsible for repaying the bank.

10. **Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at ftc.gov/scams.** Get the latest tips and advice about scams sent right to your inbox.

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**Map Your Neighborhood -- a program that can save lives and property in a disaster!**

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a program designed to help neighbors prepare for disasters and is offered through the Gardena Police Department Emergency Preparedness Office.

MYN will help you to:
- Learn the “9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster” to secure your home and protect your neighborhood. It is hard to think clearly following disaster and these steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives.
- Identify the Skills and Equipment each neighborhood has that would be useful in an effective disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills helps your disaster response to be timely, and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.
- Create a Neighborhood Map identifying the locations of natural gas and propane tanks for quick response if needed.
- Create a Contact List that helps identify those with specific needs such as the elderly, disabled, or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.

For More Information
- Contact: Mark Clayson
- Deonese MYN Coordinator
- (310) 327-7398
- m.clayson@sbcglobal.net

**Contact Mark Clayson at (310) 327-7398 or m.clayson@sbcglobal.net for more information.**

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Submitted by:
**Renee’ Anderson**
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Chief of Police Citizen Advisory Panel (COPCAP)

Information gathered from:
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
Officer Highlight

Detective Carlos Fernandez has dedicated himself to the Gardena Police Department for almost 21 years. Knowing he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement ever since he was in elementary school, Detective Fernandez established contact with officers through the D.A.R.E program. While in high school, he became an explorer at Inglewood Police Department in order to gain experience in Law Enforcement. From there, Detective Fernandez moved on to becoming a Police Assistant at Gardena Police Department and a Cadet at El Camino College. Shortly after, he became a Police Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department and several months later transferred to the Gardena Police Department where he has taken on a range of assignments including: patrol, narcotics, and Detective. Detective Fernandez is currently assigned Auto Thefts. He enjoys working for the City of Gardena because of the positive feedback that he receives from the community.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Highlight

WHAT CAUSED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

What caused me to become involved in Neighborhood Watch was that when I moved into a new neighborhood here in the City, there had been a few incidents on my block. I thought that one way I could help and minimize these crimes would be to start attending neighborhood watch meetings. I began going to meetings at Rowley Park. However, they were so long and did not address the topics that I really wanted to know about. That’s when I decided to start a new Neighborhood Watch group on my block.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM?

What I like most is to see that the meetings do make a difference, especially in our residents’ attitudes towards our Police Department and about how safe our block is if we all work together to keep it that way.
MEET OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS!

Left to Right: Captain Kang, Lt. Fox (D2), Lt. Prendergast (D1), Mark Clayson (D1), Virginia Burgos (D3), Renee’ Anderson (D1), Jessie Carrara (D3), Annie Roddy (D3), Mary Koch (D2), Char Lynch (D2), Brenda Jackson (D1), Abigail Quiroz (Comm. Affairs), Lt. Lee (D3)

Not Pictured: Wilhelmina Bradley (D1), Sheila Doerschel (D2), Shawn Groveunder (D2), Kathy Haynes (D1), Jules Kanhan (D1), Beverly Melville (D2), Diane Morita (D2), Mina Semenza (D3), Chris Vlahos (D3)

District One

Holly Park HOA
Rowley Park Community Room
- 13220 S. Van Ness Ave)
1st Thursday of every month @ 7 PM.

Wilkie NW Group
Ms. Kathy Haynes’ home -13816 Wilkie Ave
2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7 PM

NE Quadrant NW
Community Room of GTran Municipal Trans. Facility – 13999 S Western Ave
Last Tuesday of every month @ 6:30 PM

Casimir Gate Keepers Block Watch
Meets Quarterly, Contact District Lt for upcoming dates

Hass Ave Block Watch 13123 Haas Ave
Contact District Lt for upcoming dates

District Two

Junipero Serra High School
14830 S. Van Ness
2nd Thursday of every month @ 7:00 PM

CrossRoad NW
Crossroad Church – 15916 Crenshaw Blvd
Last Monday, monthly @ 7:00 PM

Doerschel Residence
1319 W 147th Street
3rd Thursday of every other odd month @ 7:00 PM

Melville NW
2718 W. 143rd Place
Contact District Lt for upcoming dates

District Three

Area One
Gardena Juvenile Justice Center
16206 Western Ave Suite F
3rd Thursday of every even Month @ 7:00 PM

Area Two
Arthur Johnson Park
1200 W. 170th Street
4th Tuesday of every even month @ 7:00 PM

Area Three and Four
Gardena Juvenile Justice Center
16206 Western Ave Suite F
4th Thursday of every odd month @ 7:00 PM

Garden West Mobile Estates
17700 S. Western Ave
2nd Wednesday of every even month @ 7:00 PM
Follow-Home Robbery Prevention Tips

Follow-home robberies are described as a type of crime in which robbers look for individuals who exhibit or withdraw money at locations such as banks, gas stations, casinos, and grocery/shopping centers and follow them as they leave their location and drive home. These criminals rob the victims as they pull into their driveway or as they step into their home.

To help minimize the chances of becoming a victim of follow-home robberies, follow these simple tips:

1. Be careful when exhibiting money in public or carrying large amounts of cash.
2. Always be aware of your surroundings, especially when leaving a location and driving home.
3. Be aware of people watching you when opening your wallet to make a purchase, making a monetary transaction, pushing your cart towards the car, or putting your shopping bags into the car.
4. Unlock your car a few paces before reaching the vehicle.
5. Watch who is driving behind you at all times.
6. Don’t pull into your driveway until you are certain that nobody is following behind you.
7. Lock your vehicle as soon as you exit and home door as soon as you walk in.

If you believe that you are being followed, call the Gardena Police Department and do not stop your vehicle until police is present. Be prepared to provide a description of the vehicle and the individuals that occupied the vehicle.
CRIME UPDATE

The following map represents the crime that we had in Gardena for the month of December. The tables list the amount of crimes we have had in the past two months. To find more up-to-date crime stats, please go to www.gardenapd.org.

**Nov. ‘16**
- Robbery: 14
- Res. Burglary: 10
- Comm. Burglary: 11
- Vehicle Crimes: 51
- Assaults: 16

**Dec. ‘16**
- Robbery: 21
- Res. Burglary: 32
- Comm. Burglary: 10
- Vehicle Crimes: 74
- Assaults: 10
Follow us on Social Media!

Visit us on the web at: www.gardenapd.org

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION
If you are not on our E-mailing list, please email acquiroz@gardenapd.org and request to be added.

CONTRIBUTE
If you would like to add crime prevention tips or articles to our next newsletter, please email them to acquiroz@gardenapd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Did you know we found 186 people experiencing homelessness in your city a year ago?

JOIN THE CITY OF GARDENA’S HOMELESS COUNT
on Wednesday, January 25, 2017
from 8-11 pm

@ Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we do the Count?
To get the official statistics of what homelessness looks like in our community. There are also tools to bring needed resources and housing to the South Bay.

Why is it conducted every year?
To see the needs and understand the progress we are making in ending homelessness.

How will I know what we do that night?
You will be fully trained and paired with the mainline you’ll need.

How old do I have to be?
All volunteers need to be at least 18 years old to participate in this activity.

How long will it take?
About 3 hours or less.

For more information on the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, please visit www.lahs.org/homelesscount.

For a closer look at the problem faced by homeless in the South Bay during the last 2016 Count, please visit gdpd.org.

Contact Detective Sean Dixon at s Dixon@gardenapd.org or (310) 217-9670

WELCOME FOLDERS FOR NEW RESIDENTS!

A new outreach method the Gardena Police Department has created is the Welcome Folders for our new residents. These folders include a welcome letter from Chief Medrano, information regarding Neighborhood Watch, and a variety of City and Police resources.

If you are a new resident or know someone who recently moved into your neighborhood, please email acquiroz@gardenapd.org with the new resident’s name and address!

The men & women of the Gardena Police Department wish you and your family a happy new year!

Gardena Police Department
1718 West 162nd Street
Gardena, CA 90247