

## **Crime Prevention Tips – for Pacific Palisades (September 2024)\***

*\*Provided to PPCC courtesy of Brentwood Community Council, with input from Brentwood Homeowners Association; original message to the Brentwood community edited for relevance to the Palisades community*

**Our providing the names of potential vendors is not an endorsement; do your due diligence and see who is right for you.**

### **Harden Your Home.**

- **Install an alarm and USE it.** Alarm all windows: burglars will even make ladders out of lawn furniture to gain entry upstairs. Include motion sensors and glass breakers. Many companies install and monitor alarm systems including ACS and Moore Security. Note: motion sensors and glass break sensors don't work if the alarm is not turned on.
- **Keep your house looking lived in,** whether you are home or not. Lights on, noise from a tv, stereo or radio. Consider putting lights on timers.
- **Safe or Safes** - use it, and have it bolted down. If a safe is not installed properly, it is not effective. Consult a professional. Consider multiple safes, potentially one acting as a dummy safe. While a convenient location, burglars are going straight to the master bedroom. Some vendors include Bundy Lock and Key, Brown Safe Company, and Modlock.
- **Windows/Glass doors** - consider having safety film installed - this makes glass harder to break. Some installers - Campbell Window Film or Tint Luxury. Also, if you have a contractor, ask them. Some contractors will install the film that makes glass harder to break.
- **GPS Tracking Devices,** such as Apple Air Tag. Consider putting these inside expensive handbags, safes, expensive clothing (yes, even certain designer clothing has been stolen in these burglaries). Name the AirTags something innocuous, such as "Fluffy," or "Fido," names that might signal a nearby pet, but not "Luxury Goods Safe."
- **Dog** - Advertise that you have a dog or dogs with signs. This is also important in the event of fire. OSH, Anawalt and many online retailers have "Beware of Dogs" signs.
- **Landscaping/Fencing** - tall fences that are hard to scale, and landscaping that is hard to walk through, such as rose bushes with thorns, can provide a deterrent.
- **Locks** - keep doors, windows, gates (including side yard gates), locked. Secure your electrical panels so that burglars can't interrupt power to your home and alarm system. Consider replacing standard length screws with extra-long screws on the hinges of exterior doors so doors are harder to kick in.
- **Lights** - light up your yard ... without lighting up the house next door.
- **Cameras** - Consider security cameras. There are many different varieties. Realize that ones that rely solely on Wi-Fi may be rendered inoperable by Wi-Fi jammers, a now somewhat common burglary tool. Ring and Nest make various products, and companies such as Moore Protection install wired home security camera systems. AI/live monitored camera systems, such as Deep Sentinel are also available. Have cameras face the street in front of your house so vehicles can be captured. There are also laser motion sensors that will recognize the presence of someone before they reach your home.

**Be aware of your surroundings.** Report drones that may be surveilling our neighborhood to our Senior Lead Officer. His, and other useful contact and resource information, is below. If a car seems out of place, if someone appears to be casing your street - let our senior lead officer know, and if you have private security, let them know. Take a picture and share it with our Senior Lead Officer. If you live on a hillside, check the landscaping and brush for cameras; some groups have placed cameras in the yards of hillside properties in other parts of the City.

**Form a neighborhood watch for your street or block.** You only need 10-12 residences to participate. It's okay to start small, grow larger. Invite some neighbors over and make a plan. It can be as simple as creating a *WhatsApp* group or a text chain with neighbors by which you keep each other informed of incidents occurring, or unusual sightings, anything that seems "amiss." Include any security patrol car/s used in your area to the group and make sure that members have the number of the car. Set clear ground rules so everyone knows what to share, what to save for a different format. Our Senior Lead Officer is always a resource for you, and we have residents who are happy to provide you tips with how to put together a neighborhood watch group. For the Palisades: Just write to [info@pacpalicc.org](mailto:info@pacpalicc.org), or to your HOA (if your area has one); we will connect you with someone ready to help.

**Supplemental security.** Check if your HOA (if relevant) provides patrol; become a dues-paying member so you have access to supplemental security. There are several private patrol cars in our area that provide 24/7 patrol with immediate phone access to the car. Contact them to see if you are in a covered area that you can join and/or if a group near you is forming to add a dedicated car. Private security companies waiting to help you include Gates Security (formerly Palisades Patrol), Elite Security, ACS Security, SSA Security Group and Nastec, which is being used by some neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades.

**Stay in touch** - with your HOA (again, if you have one), and with Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC). If you aren't a member of the HOA in your area, join. See what they are planning to support your community, and how you can help. For information about Palisades HOAs and other neighborhood groups see pp. 3-4 of PPCC's list of community organizations: <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/about/community-organizations/>.

**Sign up for newsletters/bulletins.** Staying informed is as important a tool as any other. In the Palisades, sign up for our Senior Lead Officer's weekly crime report by emailing Brian Espin at [37430@lapid.online](mailto:37430@lapid.online). Sign up for PPCC notices and bulletins at <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/contact-us/>. Sign up for your HOA newsletter (if available). Sign up for our City Councilwoman Traci Park's newsletter at: [cdll.lacity.org](http://cdll.lacity.org).

**Stay safe everyone.**