

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

May 19, 2010
1.0

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Executive Director, Board of Police Commissioners

SUBJECT: COMMISSION INVESTIGATION DIVISION'S ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR APRIL 2010

The Commission Investigation Division's (CID) Activity Report is a brief synopsis of the current topical issues that are being addressed by its Advocate Section, Charitable Services Section, Enforcement Section, Permit Processing Section and Records Section. Each section will address significant administrative and enforcement issues encountered during the preceding month. This report will be delivered to you every month for your review. I hope this information is useful and insightful.



RICHARD M. TEFANK, Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

Attachments

**COMMISSION INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR APRIL 2010**

DETECTIVE SECTION

On April 21, 2010, Commission Investigation Division (CID), Detective Section, conducted a field enforcement operation at a South Los Angeles auto auction yard. The auction, located at 8466 S. Figueroa St., is owned and operated by S & J Wilshire Tow, Inc., which serves as an Official Police Garage (OPG) for the City of Los Angeles (Wilshire Area). Investigators monitored the yard for irregularities and non-permitted tow trucks traveling to and from the location. Four tow truck operators were cited for failing to have the proper Police Commission (PC) permits, two additional drivers were issued Field Inspection Reports which will require eventual follow-up, and one tow truck was impounded because the driver had an expired driver's license.

During the month of April, Detective Section investigators met with Department of Water and Power representatives to discuss improvements to a secondary storage lot operated by ATS Towing, Inc., the City's OPG for Northeast Area. The changes, which include better lighting and improved landscaping and sprinklers, were recommended in order to combat vandalism, graffiti and other crimes occurring on an obscure portion of the ATS property, which borders both Hollenbeck and Northeast Areas. On April 27, investigators surveying the location pursuant to "Operation Nightingale" determined that surveillance cameras were up and running. This and increased patrol of the area appear to be working. An April 27 inspection revealed that the condition of the location had improved significantly since a prior inspection.

In Service Training

On April 15, Detective Section provided quarterly in-service instruction to area Vice officers on how to conduct sting operations targeting "Bandit Tow" operators who illegally tow vehicles from private property. Personnel were instructed on what tow companies and their employees are responsible to know when impounding vehicles, and information packets were provided.

On April 19, Detective Section provided instruction to Operations-Valley Bureau's (OVB) Community Enforcement Combat Team-Auto Theft (CECAT) officers regarding how to conduct sting operations targeting "Bandit Tow" operators who illegally tow vehicles from private property. The CECAT team requested the training after receiving complaints that a tow truck operator was engaging in a "snatch and grab" of vehicles without proper authorization and without proper notification to police, i.e., auto theft. Detective Section investigators offered to help coordinate the sting, if necessary.

Training Attended:

April 7 – "Terrorism Overview for Local Law Enforcement Investigators," co-presented by the Los Angeles County District Attorney, the Criminal Justice Institute, and the Joint Regional Intelligence Center, in Fontana, CA.

**COMMISSION INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR APRIL 2010**

CAFÉ ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOWS (CES)

During the month of April, CES investigators conducted 23 up-front compliance inspections at massage therapy businesses in OVB, which resulted in 2 arrests for operating without the proper PC permits. Most of the locations had the required permits/or were in compliance with the state certification and no violations were observed.

On April 12, CES coordinator provided training at the Department's Vice School. An overview of CID's duties and responsibilities was provided on a power-point presentation. A question and answer segment proved to be very beneficial based on the amount of interest generated at the end of the presentation.

Uniform Enforcement Section

On April 30, Detective Section personnel assisted Enforcement Section with a security guard card sweep in the Jewelry District. The purpose of the operation, conducted in coordination with field representatives from the State of California Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Security and Investigation Services (BSIS), was to determine compliance with State security guard licensing requirements. The operation resulted in eight (8) arrests: two (2) for concealed firearms, one (1) for no baton permit, and five (5) for operating without a license. Investigators also confiscated a handgun, baton, and OC spray. The BSIS also determined there were a total of 17 administrative violations for security guard requirements.

During the month of April, Enforcement Section conducted 18 upfront auto park inspections that resulted with two arrests. Enforcement Section continuous to work closely with Office of Finance staff to identify auto park locations that are out of compliance with the required business permits.

Noise Enforcement Team (NET)

During the month of April, the NET completed 58 noise variances. To date, the NET has conducted 169 noise variances.

POLICE PERMIT REVIEW PANEL (PPRP)

On April 22, the PPRP held a special meeting to discuss an Adult Café Entertainment/Shows permit application for an adult entertainment business in OVB. The Department is recommending denial of the permit due to violations of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 103.106(b), (No dance hall permit), and Section 103.102 LAMC (No Café Entertainment/Shows permit). To date, there have been numerous noise and nuisance complaints from the community regarding the business. Several members of the community including City Councilmember Paul Koretz attended the meeting to voice their concerns. Because of the complexity and overwhelming witnesses for this case the Panel referred the case to a hearing examiner set for May 10, 2010.

**COMMISSION INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR APRIL 2010**

Disciplinary Hearings/Hearing Examiner

On April 30, a hearing convened to hear accusations that support the Department's recommendation that an Operations-Central Bureau business have its three PC permits (Secondhand General, Secondhand Jewelry, and Pawnbroker permits) be revoked due to the following violations:

- Section 496(a) of the California Penal Code (PC), Buy/Receive Stolen Property;
- Section 496(b) PC, Buy/Receive stolen property valued in excess of \$400.00; and,
- Section 21207 of the state Financial Code, which prohibits pawnbrokers from receiving a pledge from a minor.

Testimony was presented, and then turned over to the Hearing Examiner for a recommendation. The recommendation is anticipated to be submitted within 30 days of the hearing.

GIVE WISELY

On April 22, at the request of West Valley Area, CSS provided a "Give Wisely" presentation to a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting in Van Nuys.

On April 15, CSS was scheduled to make a "Give Wisely" presentation to a North Hollywood community meeting. However, North Hollywood was forced to cancel the event and is currently working with CSS to reschedule it.

LAN Watch:

- **April 5, 2010, Cops for Causes** – CSS approved placement of an ad for a fundraiser/tribute to LAPD/SWAT Officer R.J. Cottle and a fellow Marine killed in combat. The organization's application had been dropped off on March 31, the application was expedited and an Information Card was issued for the event.
- **April 5, 2010, Annual Volkswagen Bicycle Fun Ride for Children's Hospital Los Angeles**, to be held at Elysian Park Police Academy. CSS determined the event was not in compliance and E-mailed a blank Notice of Intention (NOI) to Officer Helper to bring this event into compliance.
- **April 21-22, 2010 - Newton Street Memorial Ride:** E-mailed officers for the Report of Results (ROR) for last year's event (no card issued) and for a NOI to be submitted for this year's event. CSS spoke with representatives of the event, who will work of the providing the necessary documentation to obtain compliance. Staff will follow-up with Newton personnel to ensure compliance.

**COMMISSION INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR APRIL 2010**

- **April 27, 2010, LAPD Centurions Football** - CSS staff spoke with a representative from the team with regards to their upcoming charity golf tournament. CSS Staff explained the procedures and material required to properly register the event and be in compliance. Proceeds from the event will be to support a local non-profit organization. The representative stated that he will contact the charity and obtain the forms from our website and a Letter of Authorization from the organization benefitting from the event. Staff will follow-up to ensure compliance.

PERMIT PROCESSING AND RECORDS SECTIONS

Legal Requests

Twelve declarations of police permits were processed for the Office of the City Attorney. One public records request was processed with the help of the Office of the City Attorney.

Coliseum and Sports Arena Special Events

Central Area contacted Permits Processing Section (PSS) about concerns over special events at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Sports Arena Complex. Large amounts of Department resources have been used to police the area during special events with no reimbursement for much of the expense. The Deputy City Attorney assigned to CID opined that the Special Event Ordinance which allows the City to bill for these services is now in effect and can be used for upcoming events.

Public Hearing for CES Location

On April 17, PPS investigators attended the public hearing for a CES location in the Valley. Although the permit investigators did not testify at the hearing, they gained insight into typical neighborhood objections to establishments with live nighttime entertainment.