

BRIEFING MEMO FOR ACTION

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

March 6, 2002

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ELLEN OPPENHEIM  
General Manager *Ellen Oppenheim*

SUBJECT: PARK SAFETY UPDATE

During the period covering February 21-28, following the most recent Board meeting, four serious incidents of crime occurred in or immediately adjacent to one of our parks:

Incident #1:

Location: Glassell Park Child Care Center (Construction Zone;  
Metro Region)

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2002

Time: 5:00 p.m.

City contractor, Walton Construction Company, sub-contracted with DTS Maximum Security to protect the construction site. DTS placed a 42-year-old male security guard at the site. The construction site is located on park property adjacent to existing recreation facilities.

On Friday, a 19-year-old female reported to the police that on Thursday, February 21, she was forcibly taken into the construction trailer and raped by the security guard for a period of hours before she escaped. Recreation and Parks was notified of this incident by LAPD on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, when LAPD requested access to the trailer. LAPD arrested the suspect at the construction site on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Incident #2:

Location: Vineyard Recreation Center (Pacific Region)

Date: Friday, February 22, 2002

Time: 10:20 a.m.

A male Black, 32-year-old victim, was standing with 3-4 gang members near a parked car at Ferndale and Farmdale (adjacent to the Recreation Center).

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Shots were fired from an approaching gray Chevy Corsica transporting male Blacks (rival gang members). The males ran to the Center gym for cover. The victim suffered two gunshot wounds in his lower left leg and was taken to Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

When shots were fired, 4-5 male Blacks were seen running from the gym with one pointing a gun at the Corsica. These males ran back into the gym, but left before police arrived. The police uncovered nine spent 9mm casings and 3 bullet fragments in front of 2950 Farmdale, and a fully loaded chrome semi auto .357 magnum revolver w/ammo sleeve (6 rounds) in a green trash bag inside the gym. Police arrested a male Black for possession of bags of marijuana. One of our employees witnessed the shooting.

In a second related incident, the victim's son (6<sup>th</sup> grade) was fatally shot and two females wounded in an incident that occurred at Adams and West Blvds. (near Vineyard Recreation Center) at 8:40 p.m. on February 22. His son had just left the hospital after visiting his father when the shooting occurred. It was the sense of LAPD Southwest Detectives that the incidents were related and the son was followed from the hospital.

Incident #3:

Location: 428 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Place (Directly across from Gilbert Lindsay Recreation Center at 429 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
Date: Monday, February 25, 2002  
Time: 10:10 p.m.

While standing on the sidewalk directly across from park property, a male was shot in the lower back. Police also found several gunshot impact areas on two separate adjacent residences. Suspects and motive unknown. The recreation center was closed at the time.

Incident #4:

Location: 1563 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street (Directly across from Slauson Recreation Center)  
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2002  
Time: 8:20 a.m.

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Two male Blacks were seen driving in a burgundy color 1978 Ford Mustang. Shots were fired from the passenger side of the vehicle at the residence located at 1563 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. No victims were reported. Three employees were on duty and one employee witnessed the shooting.

A Citywide Safe Park meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at 2:00 PM at the Park Ranger Visitors Center Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss current crime trends, review the last years progress, re-evaluate goals for the coming year, clarify roles, and share information. In attendance from LAPD will be Commander Val Paniccia and Captain Sharyn Buck of Juvenile Service Group along with the 18 geographic park coordinators. In attendance from Recreation and Parks will be James Combs, Assistant General Manager, Community Services Branch, Tony Coroalles, Assistant General Manager, Region Operations, the three regional Superintendents, Chief Park Ranger, Park Ranger supervisory staff, and Marilyn White, Principal Recreation Supervisor, CLASS Parks.