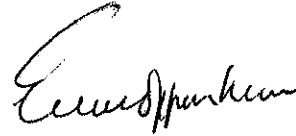


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

May 1, 2002

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: ELLEN OPPENHEIM, General Manager
SUBJECT: CRIME INCIDENTS



The following briefly summarizes four separate incidents of serious crime that occurred at Department facilities between April 14 and 21, 2002.

April 14, 2002: On Saturday, April 14, at approximately 7:15 p.m., a non-fatal shooting (attempted murder) of a male Hispanic occurred at the Hansen Dam Sports Center parking lot in the Lake View Terrace district of the San Fernando Valley. The shooting occurred in an area where problem activity, appearing gang related, regularly occurs on weekends and summer holidays, i.e. conspicuous and unsafe vehicle maneuvers, alcohol and marijuana consumption, and general posturing and belligerent conduct.

The shooting occurred after a male Hispanic driving a vehicle with two female companions (suspect) had contact with another male Hispanic standing in the parking lot with other males (victim). The suspect exited his vehicle and a fistfight between the suspect and victim ensued. Although the fistfight was halted, the suspect shortly thereafter obtained an automatic handgun and a shot discharged. When onlookers heard the shot and ran for cover, the victim went to the back bed of a pick-up truck. The suspect found the victim in the truck bed and purposely shot him point blank in the torso.

LAPD responded and handled the incident.

April 16, 2002: On Tuesday, April 16, at approximately 8:30 a.m., two Department employees, a male and a female Gardener - Custodian, were working at the southeast corner of Branford Park in the Panorama City district of the San Fernando Valley when the male became the victim of an armed robbery. While the workers were near the sidewalk, a white Chevy pick-up w/shell carrying two male Hispanic suspects drove up and told the female to leave the area. Suspect #1, in the passenger seat, pointed a

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semi-automatic handgun at the victim and demanded (in Spanish) all the victim's money, wallet, ring, and watch. Suspect #2 then walked from the driver's side and also demanded compliance from the victim. For fear of his life, the victim complied with the suspects. Suspect #2 was handed the victim's wallet and jewelry and he returned to the truck and drove away.

LAPD responded and took a report.

April 16, 2002: On Tuesday, April 16, at approximately 10:26 a.m., Aquatics staff at the Hansen Dam Recreation Area reported that gang related gunshots had been fired from two moving vehicles traveling on Foothill Blvd. near Osborne Avenue adjacent to park property. No injuries occurred.

April 21, 2002: On Sunday, April 21, at approximately 3:40 a.m., Park Safety Officer (PSO) Luis Bernal was routinely opening Griffith Park when he observed a suspicious vehicle parked in the southwest section of the LA Shares (Cultural Affairs) facility parking lot located on Riverside Drive south of Los Feliz Blvd. Upon investigating, PSO Bernal found four Armenian males (17 - 20 years of age) and a 19-year-old Black female who had been abducted and forced (threatened with a hammer) to unwillingly engage in sexual acts. PSO Bernal requested back-up from Park Rangers Joyce and Kilpatrick and LAPD was called to the scene. The four male suspects were arrested and the incident is now under police investigation.

Prepared by Gary Newton, Chief Park Ranger.