



## **LETTER TO WINDSOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**June 22, 2017**

The Board of the Windsor Village Association has been looking into requests by several of our residents for increased security in our neighborhood in response to recent criminal activity. This letter details our efforts to date in addressing the issue and proposing future courses of action to address our community members' concerns:

### **I. Take-Away from the Windsor Village Association's April Public Safety Meeting**

Beginning with our public safety meeting in April with a panel from the Wilshire Division, including SLO Rodriguez, we have been gathering information to present to the residents regarding what contributions the Windsor Village Association can make to this cause.

The overarching takeaway from the April presentation and from subsequent conversations with SLO Rodriguez is that crime is trending **DOWNWARD** in our area, and appreciably so. By almost every metric for every type of crime, Windsor Village, including Harold Henry Park, has shown significant decreases in crime — so much so, that the Wilshire Division has been allocating patrol resources to other areas of their jurisdiction. That having been said, we are well aware that the loss of safety can be felt after a single incident. SLO Rodriguez and his team encouraged us to report ALL criminal activity and events, no matter how small and to communicate suspicious activity. The more data points they have, the more they can assign patrols and other resources to our area. No crime or suspicious activity is insignificant.

We continue to live in one of the safest neighborhoods in Los Angeles. There is **no** gang activity in our neighborhood and we should be careful of associating all graffiti tagging and late-night activity by young people as being gang-related. According to the LA Times Heat Map of crime, which is published on their website (<http://maps.latimes.com/neighborhoods/neighborhood/mid-wilshire/crime/#six-months>), in the past six months, our neighborhood was statistically safer than Windsor Square and Hancock Park, which are heavily surveilled.

### **II. The Prospect for Community-Wide Patrol of Our Community**

A few residents have been vociferous in their desire for security patrol, paid for entirely or partly by Windsor Village Association's treasury funds. Both Hancock Park and Windsor Square, which have such patrols, pay for these services using homeowner association dues along with an abundance of filming revenue (well into the 6 figures!!!). Windsor Village, by comparison, is a very economically diverse area. The majority of our roughly 300 lots are multi-unit complexes making our area high-density by

definition. Accordingly, we are not a dues paying association and the Windsor Village Association has historically never had a steady revenue stream.

In Windsor Square and Hancock Park, on the other hand, the filming revenue comes from film productions renting very large homes for several days at a time. As a result, the person or family who leased the home for filming will contribute a percentage to their homeowners' association. The fees, as you can imagine, add up very quickly as filming is popular on those streets. However, since most of the filming activity in Windsor Village is confined to the Ebell and the Church (and both their respective parking lots), as well as the Park, we are not in a position to reap huge fees. Many, but not all productions, have contributed amounts on request, but this is a voluntary process and we have no authority to mandate a donation. Thanks to resident Betty Fox's work (which she still does despite retiring from the Board at the end of 2016), we currently have about \$16,000 non-HPOZ-related funds in our treasury, all of which came from filming. That having been said, in 2016 there was a boom in filming activity in our area, but not so in 2017. This year to date, the Association has been able to secure a contribution from only one production.

With that in mind, we have spent the last several weeks contacting security firms, surveillance device manufacturers, and consulting with nearby owner associations to get an idea of the costs involved with enhanced security. Below is a cost breakdown of what two different security firms, SSA (the service used by Windsor Square which had a representative at our April meeting) and Southwest Patrol, another service used in our area, can provide:

**Southwest Patrol:**

- Annual Contract;
- One 10-15 minute patrol per day, \$8,942.50/year; or
- Three 10-15 minute patrols per day, \$21,900/year.

A 10-15 minute patrol is basically a slow drive through our entire neighborhood, primarily focused on the park and its immediate environs.

**SSA:**

- Minimum contract is for six months and then can do a month-to-month contract;
- Need a minimum of 200 homes/buildings to participate (this is 2/3 of the entire community);
- Cost is \$218/month/home for single family residences and \$350/month/building for multi-family dwelling units (because they also patrol the garages);
- We would have one car for the entire neighborhood;
- We would be using same car as Windsor Square; and
- Patrol would be 24 hours.

While there are several condo complexes in Windsor Village, the majority of the multi-units are rentals and it's very difficult to estimate how many could be expected to contribute. Assuming that all 200 participants were single-family, the cost per month would be \$43,600 or **\$260,000 for six months.**

That is a big disparity in cost and there are several reasons for this. First, SSA is the gold standard for private security in Los Angeles. Second, there is a huge difference

between three 10-15 minute patrols and constant security patrols. No one on the Board feels that three drive-bys per day are going to stop anyone from committing a crime. In fact, in several of our conversations with Wilshire Division, we were told that drive-by patrols of that nature are not very effective as they are too few and far between. And even 24-hour surveillance has not stopped Windsor Square and Hancock Park from having crime levels in line with ours. For example, Fremont Place still has crime and they don't even allow traffic or uninvited guests.

Regardless, we do not have a reliable revenue stream to support a worthwhile patrol. We also do not think it is prudent to drain the treasury for a short-term patrol. While a formal vote of the Board is forthcoming, it is the general consensus based on our discussions that we do not wish to contribute the Association funds to a plan that protects only certain parts of the neighborhood. The treasury funds do belong to all the residents of our neighborhood and we prefer to use them in a way that benefits all of the residents. The Board is open to other ideas such as increased signage about security cameras, neighborhood watches, etc.

### **III. Other Crime-Detering Measures to Consider**

In response to our community's concerns, the Windsor Village Association looked into other measures that may help deter crime in our neighborhood and help our community members feel safe. For example, we looked into security cameras and the Ring doorbells. Information on these crime-detering mechanisms was posted on the WV-Watch and NextDoor. At our April Public Safety Meeting, the Wilshire Division was very encouraging of residents using these types of products. To that end, we are working with a representative at the Ring company to get a discount on their doorbell with camera and/or just the security camera. If we can get 15-20 people interested in either product, we can get a \$50 discount on each product.<sup>1</sup> The doorbells/cameras are easy to install, they connect to a wireless network at your house or property, and they monitor all motion and relay a video stream to your phone or computer of anyone passing by the sensors or ringing the doorbell. We posted about this last week on the WV-Watch and NextDoor, and discussed it at our June Open Board Meeting, as Ring was offering a general discount to the public. In addition to arranging another discount opportunity, the Board is planning to give away several doorbells and cameras as prizes at our Block Party on September 16.

In conclusion, the Windsor Village Association is actively addressing our community's concerns and tirelessly working to benefit our community. We take our community members' concerns very seriously and wish to address them to the extent that we are able.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors  
The Windsor Village Association

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<sup>1</sup> Please contact [windsorvillageassn@gmail.com](mailto:windsorvillageassn@gmail.com) if you are interested in purchasing a ring doorbell so we can assemble a group of people to take advantage of a group discount.