

## LAPD Asks for Cooperation to Reduce Gunfire This July 4th

As Independence Day approaches, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is launching a Citywide Gunfire Reduction Campaign. This campaign is designed to help reduce incidents of indiscriminate gunfire that have become a deadly Independence Day tradition in our City.

The Gunfire Reduction Campaign aims to advise the community that celebrating the 4th of July with gunfire will not be tolerated in the City of Los Angeles. Discharging a firearm into the air is a felony punishable by one year in state prison. Anyone arrested for discharging a firearm will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Should a stray bullet kill someone, the shooter will be arrested and charged with murder.



Many times individuals involved in celebrating holidays including Independence Day with gunfire do not realize the dangers posed in their actions. Research has found that a bullet fired into the sky can climb up to two miles and remain in flight for more than a minute. As it falls, the bullet reaches a velocity of 300 to 700 feet per second. A velocity of only 200 feet per second is sufficient to penetrate the human skull.

Over the last several years, the Los Angeles Police Department has made great strides in reducing the amount of indiscriminate gunfire that occurs during the Independence Day holiday. The successful formation and deployment of special Gunfire Reduction Task Forces, along with a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign, has dramatically reduced the threat to the community. The LAPD will again deploy additional officers and specialized teams this summer holiday season, to seek out and arrest any person firing a gun during celebrations.

The senseless death of Brian Perez and the potential for others being injured, compels the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department to once again ask the community to celebrate the holidays safely and responsibly. Don't fire guns into the air; if you see someone committing such acts, please call the police. Remember, what goes up, will come down, and when a bullet falls back to earth, it travels at a fatal velocity.

Also, please be reminded that fireworks of any kind (including the "safe and sane" kind) are prohibited in the City of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Police Department wishes all the visitors to and residents of the City a safe and sane holiday. ■



Mayor Jim Hahn and Councilwoman Janice Hahn (center) lead the groundbreaking ceremony.

## City Breaks Ground for New Fire Station 65 In South L.A.

Mayor James Hahn and LAFD Chief William Bamattre joined local dignitaries and LAFD fire officials to break ground for the new Fire Station 65, on W. Century Boulevard in South Los Angeles.

The original Fire Station 65 was one of the first built in the area and was an original horse-drawn fire company. The current property is too small to support a new or revamped fire station, so a new one is being built nearby.

The new fire station is being funded by Proposition F, approved in November 2000.



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