



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



January 18, 2008

Gang Violence Impacts Monrovia

Since January 2 we have experienced an increase in gang activity; in particular, there have been several rounds of retaliations by and among the Latino "MNV" (Monrovia Nuevo Barrio) street gang and the African American "DuRoc Crips." Over the weekend of January 12-13, this violence culminated with the shooting of a 64-year old man in front of a house with a history of gang affiliations.

No doubt the gang violence that has impacted Monrovia over the last three weeks is alarming. But it is important that Monrovia's leadership, our residents and our businesses do not become alarmists. For every problem, there is a solution – and the solution to the vexing problem of gang violence exists in the City's ongoing anti-gang enforcement actions, regional collaboration between police agencies and the constant vigilance of our neighbors and businesses.

The cycle of violence that has been perpetrated by both gangs, especially since January 2, has raised awareness that gangs do indeed exist in Monrovia – and most of the rest of the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles County. Some of the violence originates outside of our City, yet Monrovia is prepared to effectively combat this problem.

Monrovia spends more than \$13 million per year on police services – about 41% of the City's entire General Fund budget. The Police Department's longstanding relationships with the LA County Sheriff Department and other regional organizations such as LA IMPACT (targeting narcotics trafficking) have abated the impact of gang activity in our town. Moreover, recognizing that intervention is every bit as important as enforcement, the City has also invested significant resources in programs such as the Department's nationally recognized Community Activist Policing program, the Monrovia Area Partnership (which provides grants and neighborhood improvement opportunities to residents in targeted neighborhoods) and the Youth Employment Service (which provides meaningful, real world job experience to at-risk youth). In effect, Monrovia is providing alternative paths to gangs, drugs and violence.

Some have characterized this current increase in violence as race-based. While it is true that one is a Latino gang and the other an African-American gang, gang violence is gang violence. Over the years, Monrovia has experienced the same demographic transition that decreased the percentage of the population that is black and increased the percentage of the population that is Latino and Asian. Because some of this transition has been concentrated in a handful of neighborhoods, the issue of race is sometimes exaggerated as a cause of violence. But this is about gangs – not race. Gang members are not representatives of their respective races. Quite the opposite, they are caricatures of their worst stereotypes. Real men and women – regardless of their color or ethnicity – go to work, raise their families, and try to carve out for themselves and their children lives that are better than the ones they have known.

Forty years ago, Monrovia was a city that was down and out. The joke used to be: "Will the last one out of Monrovia please turn out the lights?" Yet over the last two generations, Monrovians – *all Monrovians* – have worked together to make our town one of the finest in the State, and we will not slip back to the blight and despair of 1970.

Thus, our warning to gang members is this: Stop. The path you are on can only lead to prison, death or both. As we have seen, it can also claim the lives of those around you. It is not too late to take advantage of the resources and opportunities this community has made available to you. But if you choose the path you are on – the easier path in the larger scheme of things – your life's failure and the pain brought upon your family are entirely your own doing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Historic Preservation Meeting. The following applications will be reviewed at the January 23, 2008 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting:

- 252 Aspen Drive – HL-106/MA-100 – Review of request to remove condition
- Review Proposed Mural – 116 West Lime Avenue – Paul Kalemkiarian
- Review of District Regulations

Development Review Committee. At the January 16 Development Review Committee meeting, the Committee approved the sign for the proposed Circuit City which will be replacing the COMPUSA on West Huntington Drive.

MAP Area 1 Update. Members of the City's Neighborhood Strategy Team walked the blocks of Cypress, Cherry, Los Angeles, Fig and Sherman on Wednesday to speak to residents and offer support following the recent tragic events on Sherman Avenue this past weekend. Staff from Community Development, Community Services and the Police Department listened as residents expressed their concerns. Many people in the neighborhoods were glad to see this community outreach effort and welcomed staff along with the opportunity to talk about neighborhood issues. A significant dialogue was started with one family in the hope that some of the situations that contributed to the neighborhood safety concerns may be mitigated. Fortunately, the goodwill forged through the Monrovia Area Partnership remains strong as a number of participants expressed positive remarks to Neighborhood Services staff. Mayor Hammond and City Manager Scott Ochoa joined in the walk and pledged continued support and resources for the community.

Filming. City Lights Media will be filming scenes for an HGTV home improvement series called "Don't Sweat It" at 806 Sequoia Circle on Friday, January 25 and Saturday, January 26 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. They will be filming interior scenes converting an under-stair hollow to a useable pantry and building an overhang off of the back door.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

RECREATION DIVISION

Canyon Park Nature Center Like New! Many thanks go out to retired paint contractor and park volunteer Gabby Grescheck for applying a new coat of paint to the interior of the Canyon Park Nature Center. After 10 years of use the facility was in need of a fresh look and thanks to Gabby's painting expertise the Nature Center looks like new again.

LIBRARY DIVISION

Temporary Library @ 834 Olive Avenue. The Adult Services Staff has taken full advantage of the move by streamlining procedures, rethinking customer service and planning new ways of marketing services, resources and programming. The Reference Staff is now doing roving reference and it certainly has paid off because sometimes the public is hesitant to ask for assistance. By walking away from the desk the reference staff is more approachable.

Circulation Staff had been responsible for signing up the public on the Technology Center computers. The Reference Staff started signing up the public on the computers, giving reference staff the opportunity to interact more with the computer users. Staff decided to store all back issues of periodicals on the main floor of the gym. The older issues of the periodicals had been stored in the back workroom. This change gives the public full accessibility to the collection.

D.I.Y. For Kids. Library staff is excited to begin a new program. *Design It Yourself* is an after school make-and-take craft program for students in 2nd-5th grades. Kids will meet Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. from January 23 – February 13. Crazy, creative crafts on the agenda include: *Fantanimals, Howtoons Mini Marshmallow PVC Shooter, Incredible Duct Tape Creations, and Something Green*. Registration is required for this program; interested kids should call Rebecca at 256-8274 to reserve a spot.

A Flight of Fairy Tales. *Best Books* started its winter session with a *Flight of Fairy Tales* on Tuesday, January 15 at 3:30 pm. For seven weeks until February 26, Shawn Thrasher will be reading aloud fairy tales from around the world. For the first program, Shawn read French, German, and Ancient Egyptian versions of Cinderella and ended with a modern version by Caralyn Buehner called *Fanny's Dream*. Future fairy tale themes will include *A Boy Named Jack, Girls Who Rock, and Fractured Fairy Tales*.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 60 emergency calls from 0800 hours January 9 to 0800 hours January 16. Significant incidents include:

Apartment House Fire. In the early morning hours, personnel responded to a reported apartment fire. Upon arrival, personnel found a downstairs unit charged with light smoke. The occupant placed a plastic hamper in front of the wall heater thus causing the hamper and towels to ignite. The occupant was awakened by her pet dog and called the Fire Department.

Dumpster Fire. The High School security staff reported smoke coming from an apartment unit located across the street from the High School. Upon arrival, personnel observed a dumpster involved in fire. The fire was extinguished and the cause was a careless smoker who improperly discarded his cigarettes into the dumpster.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Dryers and washing machines were involved in one out of every 25 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 1999-2002. Facts and figures

- Dryers and washing machines were involved in an average of 13,300 home structure fires per year between 1999 and 2002. These fires caused an average of 10 deaths, 280 injuries and \$97 million in direct property damage per year.
- Clothes dryers and washing machines were involved in 4% of the home structure fires reported between 1999 and 2002.

- Clothes dryers accounted for 93% of the fires; washing machines 4%, and washer and dryer combinations accounted for 3%.
- The leading cause of home clothes dryer and washer fires was failure to clean (30%), followed by unclassified mechanical failure or malfunction (19%). Sixteen percent were caused by some type of electrical failure or short circuit.
- Almost one third (31%) of these fires started with the ignition of clothing. In one quarter (24%), dust, fiber, or lint was the first item.

NFPA Safety Tips:

- Do not operate the dryer without a lint filter. Clean lint filters before or after each use and remove accumulated lint from around the drum.
- Make sure that the dryer is plugged into an outlet suitable for its electrical needs, as overloaded electrical outlets can result in blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers.
- Turn the dryer off when leaving the home.
- Keep the dryer area clear of combustibles (i.e., boxes or clothing).
- Dryers should be installed and serviced by a professional.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected by a professional regularly to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact.

Please review and follow the above safety tips!

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The City has taken on new frontiers with the green accord that speaks to the need to conserve energy and protect the environment. What is important to note is the Fire Department has been mindful of the need to recycle for years and has put considerable effort into recycling aluminum, paper and cardboard, with particularly praise going to Firefighter/Paramedic Ken Struckus for managing the program.

Ken has placed drums for recycling purposes at each of the fire stations and periodically takes the product to the recycling center. In 2007, the total weight recycled by Ken and the Monrovia Fire Department came to 4,946 pounds - that's almost 2 ½ tons! Most of the weight came from paper and cardboard (we think the firefighters are more health conscious and drinking fewer canned sodas). Thanks to Ken and all the firefighters for putting their recycling hats on and making a conscious effort to help the environment and think green with continued recycle success in 2008!

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 595 calls for service resulting in 135 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Under the Influence / Possession of a Controlled Substance. On January 11 at 8:11 p.m., an officer responded to the 700 block of South Magnolia to check on the report of several male subjects loitering inside a presumably vacant duplex. On arrival, the officer detained two subjects who were inside the duplex. Both subjects were found to be under the influence, and one of them was in possession of powder cocaine. A responsible party for the property could not be located. Both subjects were arrested. One of the subjects was found to have been previously deported, so an ICE detainer was obtained.

Grand Theft Auto. On January 10 at 8:27 p.m., an officer went to a business in the 200 block of West Huntington regarding the theft of an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV). He met with the manager, who reported they had placed an ATV on display outside the store. He last saw the ATV at about 5 p.m.,

and at 8 p.m., he discovered the ATV missing. The ATV was entered into the stolen vehicle computer system, and the investigation is continuing.

Domestic Violence. On January 11 at 7:52 p.m., officers were flagged down and informed of a battery taking place in the area of Mayflower and Diamond. The witness reported he saw a male suspect on top of the victim, punching her in the face with both hands. When the suspect saw police units in the area, he stopped hitting the victim, tried to pick her up off the ground, and then walked away south on Mayflower. The suspect was detained and found to be bleeding from the forehead and back of his head. The victim's nose was bleeding. The victim and suspect are in a dating relationship and are engaged. The suspect was arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment.

Theft from Employer / Embezzlement. On January 11 at 8:07 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a business in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding an employee being detained for theft. On his arrival, it was learned that a female employee had been taking money from registers between November 2007 and January 2008. The thefts were recorded by surveillance cameras on seven different occasions. The employee was arrested and booked for the above listed charges.

Burglary / Possession of Burglary Tools. On January 12 at 10:36 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 400 block of West Huntington regarding the report of a ladder going up the side of a building off of Alta Vista, and the shutters on the side of the building appeared to have been forced open. On arrival, the officers found the shutters open and heard movement from an area above the ceiling. The officers entered the area and located one male subject hiding. The subject was in possession of burglary tools and other tools used for cutting tubing and wires. It appears the solid copper core of an air conditioning unit had been taken. No other subjects were located. The subject was arrested.

Weapon Offense. On January 13 at about 1:07 a.m., an officer was patrolling the 1500 block of Raymond when he saw a silver Toyota truck backed into a dark driveway. He lit up the truck with his spotlight and saw a male subject sitting in the driver's seat and a female in the passenger seat. Due to the area being industrial and all the businesses being closed, he contacted the subjects. He had the subjects exit the truck and obtained consent to search the vehicle. The officer found a black metal collapsible baton in a black sheath between the driver's seat and the center console. The driver was arrested and booked.

Homicide. On January 13 at 7:17 p.m., officers responded to the 1200 block of South Sherman on a report of shots fired and a man down. When officers arrived on scene, they found a 64-year-old male down on the front lawn of a residence with a gunshot wound. The victim was treated at the scene by Monrovia Fire Department paramedics and transported to the hospital, where he died from his injuries. A small compact vehicle was observed leaving the scene, but no suspects were seen. Detectives were called out and assisted the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's homicide detectives with the investigation. The investigation is continuing.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon / Shooting at an Inhabited Dwelling On January 14 at 7:54 p.m., dispatch received several 9-1-1 calls reporting shots fired in the 200 block of West Cypress. Arriving officers learned two male subjects were standing in front of a location when a vehicle with two male suspects drove up and fired several rounds at the subjects. No rounds struck the victims. The suspects fled eastbound on Cypress and south on Primrose out of sight. During an area search, an officer saw and stopped the vehicle at Mountain and Bradbury. The male driver, the registered owner of the vehicle, was detained when shell casings were seen in the car. After questioning by detectives and a vehicle search, the suspect was arrested and booked for the listed crimes. Investigation is still continuing.

PD Attachment:

- Pasadena Star-News, Article, January 12, 2008, Re: City Opts For Own Animal Control

THE PUBLIC WORKS SCOOP

ENGINEERING:

Library Project - Demolition and Grading. The library walls have been demolished, and the floor slab is being removed this week. The grading for the new library is scheduled to begin on January 21, and staff will continue working with the Bernard's project manager to ensure the trees remain free of damage and that stormwater compliance and conditions of construction are maintained. Staff is participating in the review, plan check and distribution of Bid Package No. 2, which consists of concrete foundations and slab; structural steel and decking; plumbing and site utilities; and steel window frames and glazing.

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. Staff is working with our contractor for the street improvements and the Colorado Commons developer in coordinating the street improvements. This week, the curbs and gutters were poured on Colorado and Lemon. The scaffolding on Colorado/Primrose, and the alley will be removed by Tuesday, January 21. Reconstruction of the east/west alley and the new sidewalk will begin on Primrose and the alley.

Rule 20A, Underground Utility District Mountain and Royal Oaks. Trenching and conduit installation began at the intersection of Royal Oaks and Shamrock; proceeding easterly to Mountain; then southerly crossing Huntington.

Grading Plan Check Status

- 714 Norumbega, Single family residence, grading plans submitted for plan check.
- 482 Patrician Way, Single family room addition, site plan check/corrections returned to applicant

Public Works Inspections:

- 337 Highland, Retaining wall construction continuing, Backfill approved.
- Bus Shelter Construction, rain delayed, tile work and stucco being rescheduled.
- 911 Royal Oaks, Curb, Handicap Access ramp construction at Mountain and Royal Oaks pending
- 1825 10th Avenue, Final project punch list, street resurfacing of utility trenches are pending.
- 1402 S. California, Erosion control measures for site demolition activities.
- California/Monrovia/Duarte, Building pads are formed, 2nd story framing 75% complete. Edison pole removal is 3-4 weeks away. On-site sewer improvements are being scheduled
- 202 E. Foothill, Final punch list created, 4 of the 6 units have been finalized by Public Works.
- 208 Terrace View, Retaining wall construction, walls being grouted
- 1419 S. Myrtle, west and north concrete walls are standing. The east and south walls are being formed and poured on the slab. East and south walls to be erected after required concrete cure time has elapsed. Sewer lateral televised for potential re-use upon review of video tape inspection.

Construction Documents:

- Trash Enclosure, behind 601 S. Myrtle. Plans are complete and presented to the contractor for a cost estimate
- Chantry Flats Road Repair, Preliminary design has been received and plan check has begun.
- 5th and Huntington Wash Cover - design work commencing with subsequent preparation of construction documents
- Handicap Access Ramp Construction - Construction plans are 90% complete and plan check has begun.

Continuing Education: Our Engineering Technicians, Christian Cabrales and Edgar Sarabia, have been attending college courses to complete their degrees in Engineering. Their work schedules have been accommodated to correspond with their class schedules. Engineering assistance will still be available during office hours.

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Outdoor Education. Staff participated in Canyon Park Outdoor Ed by providing an interactive environmental presentation to a class of Monrovia fifth graders. The presentation focused on storm water pollution prevention, used oil recycling, and the three R's - Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle.

SWANA. Staff recently attended a workshop in connection with the Southern California SWANA (Solid Waste Administration of Northern America). The workshop provided information on changes in operating practices and how the Solid Waste Industry is minimizing its carbon footprint to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This information is vital to the ongoing development and implementation of Green Team projects.

CASQA Meeting. Staff attended the CASQA (California Stormwater Quality Association) Annual Federal and State Stormwater and Water Quality Regulatory Programs Update, where the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 and the State Water Resources Control Board Staff provided information on the current and upcoming policy, regulations, and legislation updates. Additionally, Low Impact Development (LID), a new web-based resource database (manual and specifications), was presented. LID is a comprehensive land planning and engineering design approach aimed at maintaining and enhancing the pre-development hydrologic regime of watersheds. LID is expected to be incorporated into the City's next NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program) permit, and would affect the new and re-development conditions. Staff is using this information as research to update development conditions and prepare public information regarding Low Impact Development.

Corporate Yard Building Painting. Painting of the Corporate Yard building exterior began this week and should be completed within two weeks. Customer parking has temporarily been moved from the south side to the north parking area.

Street Lights at Shamrock and Maple. Due to a problem with street lights at Shamrock and Maple, Precision Electric has been hired to thoroughly evaluate the lighting system. If it is determined that a power surge caused the burn outs, Staff will work directly with SCE to resolve the problem. In the interim, the intersection will remain dark.

Traffic Signals Struck. Two traffic signals, one at the intersection of Duarte Rd and California, and the other at the intersection Duarte Rd and Magnolia, were struck by large vehicles this week, and both signals did require repair and realignment, and are now operating properly.

Recreation Park Restrooms. The restrooms at Recreation Park experienced an extensive sewer main back-up this week, due to vandalism. Staff followed standard procedures but were unable to clear the main. Assistance from the Utilities Division Sewer Jetter quickly remedied the situation.

Graffiti. The City graffiti removal contractor and staff spent over fifteen man hours removing graffiti from park areas within the City this week.

Rose Bushes. The annual City rose bush pruning and deep feeding was completed this week. Rose bushes at Recreation Park, City Hall, and the Historical Museum were trimmed and fed for the winter season to insure full bud growth and good health this spring.

STREETS:

Traffic Signs:

- Graffiti was removed from 147 traffic signs.
- Staff replaced the sign post and signs in the center median at Huntington and Myrtle.
- 700 Block of E. Central Ave. replaced traffic signs and post designating parking only entry lane and through traffic lanes.
- Removed graffiti and repainted the walls of the freeway overpass at Shamrock Ave.
- The downtown trolley sign at Olive and Mountain was moved from the northwest corner to the southwest corner
- The sign at Huntington and Shamrock was moved from the northeast corner to the southeast corner.

Miscellaneous:

- Cleared debris from city roadways and sidewalks generated by the Santa Ana wind conditions on 1/16/2008 and 1/17/2008.
- Front entrance customer parking lot at Public Works Facility performed custom concrete construction operations.
- Mountain Ave. north bound lanes at Wildrose Ave. performed asphalt roadway repairs to eliminate lifted areas due to tree roots.
- Asphalt roadway patching at 461 E. Greystone Ave. and at 401 Norumbega Dr.
- Potholes were repaired at 757 Crescent Ave. and in the 700 block of Ridgeside Drive. The two areas had the damaged pavement removed the sub-base filled and compacted then the asphalt was replaced with permanent hot mix asphalt concrete.
- Weeds and excessive dirt in the turn pockets were cleared from center medians on Duarte Rd. both east and west of Myrtle Ave.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 3,082 water meters were read and recorded
- 18 utilities work orders were completed
- 18 water meters were replaced

Water Production

- Water consumption is 32.1 millions gallons, a decrease of approximately 8 % compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance

- 1 new water service was installed
- 1 water meter vault was installed
- 3 water services were upgraded
- 3 angle valves were replaced
- 14 water meters were replaced
- 17 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 16,891 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 105 feet of sewer line were video inspected

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

Tues., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

PRESIDENT'S DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

Tues., March 4, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

Tues., March 18, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

POLICE DEPARTMENT ATTACHMENTS:

Rival gangs blamed in spree

Monrovia police seek to curb rise in activity

By Tania Chatila and Frank C. Girardot, Staff Writers

MONROVIA - A spate of violence that left one man dead and a teenager wounded are acts of retaliation on the part of rival African-American and Latino gangs, authorities said Tuesday. The activity in Monrovia continued late Monday when three men were shot at but not hit.

Police announced an arrest in the case Tuesday and acknowledged an increase in gang violence over the past several months. "This is a particularly bad time," Monrovia police Chief Roger Johnson said. "There are rival gangs going at each other. It's a very bad time."

The string began Saturday night in unincorporated Monrovia when a black 16-year-old student at Monrovia High School was shot in the lower body. The shooting occurred at 4:10 p.m. in the 9000 block of Peck Avenue, Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said.

One day later, Sanders "Pete" Rollins, 64, a black man, was fatally shot on his front lawn while walking toward the front door of his Sherman Avenue home. In both cases, the suspects were described as Latinos.

Then on Monday night, police arrested a black man identified as Vernon Primmer, 31, of Fontana after a drive-by shooting targeting three Latino men outside a home in the 200 block of West Cypress Street.

No one was injured, but a bullet tore through the back of one of the men's jackets. "These were all incidents of targeted retaliation," said Dick Singer, Monrovia city spokesman. "They are not shooting at random. They are looking for specific people and shooting at specific people." More specifically, police believe growing tensions between the Duroc Crips gang and the Monrovia Nueva Varrio gang are behind the shootings that have left many residents asking questions.

"This neighborhood is really going downhill," said a Cypress Street resident Monday night. The resident asked not to be identified for fear of retaliation. "I guarantee if this was the northern end of town, this wouldn't be happening."

Monrovia police Lt. Richard Wagon said Monday's shooting may have specifically been retaliation for Rollins' slaying. Rollins had no gang affiliation, officials said. "We just expect it because that is just the way gang retaliation works," said Officer Dorothy Percy, who was one of three officers rotating through Monrovia High School throughout the day Tuesday as part of an increased police presence in the school district.

Parents of students at the school received a phone message Monday from the district informing them of Saturday's shooting involving a student - known to friends as "Day Day" - Monrovia Unified School District Superintendent Louise Taylor said. An additional letter explaining the incident was also sent out Tuesday, she said.

Increased police patrol at that school as well as at neighboring Canyon Oaks High School and Santa Fe and Clifton middle schools will continue over the next few days, according to officials. "We just wanted to be cautious, and we are in close communication and collaboration with Monrovia Police Department," Taylor said. "We notified all the principals and said, 'Please, just be observant. Let us know if you see any unusual activity.'"

All permissions this week for students to leave Monrovia High School during the lunch hour have been canceled, she said. Taylor did not anticipate any retaliation at the school, and said all was quiet on campus Monday and Tuesday. "We are not aware of where this ends or how far it goes," Singer said. "But we are working very, very hard to try to stop it."

While both Taylor and Percy said they did not believe the violence had infiltrated the schools, students told a different story. "It's been going on forever," said Monrovia High student Absam Shalabi. "Like in class, they are always talking about blacks versus Mexicans."

Mayor Rob Hammond said he did not believe racial tensions were erupting in Monrovia, but did say that the city is working on addressing the recent violence.

"It's troublesome for an entire community," he said. "When something happens in one portion of the community, it affects the entire community." Hammond said residents should be vigilant. "If you see something unusual," he said, "call the police, and maybe it's the pre-emptive strike."

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