

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Attention: Arleta NC
9300 Laurel Cyn.Bl., 2nd Floor
Arleta, CA 91331
www.arletanc.org

ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Community Impact Statement

March 16, 2021

Nury Martinez, City Councilmember
City of Los Angeles Council District 6
9300 Laurel Canyon Blvd, 2nd Floor
Arleta, CA 91331

RE: **9120 N Woodman Av**

Dear Council President Martinez:

We learned at our last Arleta Neighborhood Council board meeting of February 16, 2021, that the property at 9120 N Woodman Ave is being targeted for use as a homeless shelter for seniors.

There is no doubt that homelessness is a national disaster but it must also be pointed out that other states have been sending their homeless to California—Los Angeles in particular—and still no elected official, judge, organization, or broadcast television media outlet has adequately investigated, nor highlighted, this fact to point out how this whole experience fleeces City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County taxpayers.

To install **another** homeless shelter in Council District 6 is to **re-injure** the same population that is being represented at City Hall. For decades the people of Arleta and neighboring communities within the council district have experienced the brunt of disinvestment and that has turned our neighborhoods into havens for scofflaws and now psychiatric wards without walls or containment and with no end in sight to the problem now confronted. Council District 6 has more than its fair share of homeless shelters and substance abuse rehabilitation centers when compared to more affluent communities or other locales throughout the City. We cannot and must not allow for additional injuries to this community to take place.

The attached map to this correspondence illustrates the median household income estimates for 2017 inflation-adjusted dollars and it is evident that Council District 6 has overwhelming demographics living below the poverty line. Arleta, despite it being 80 percent single-family residential, has multiple families living in a single-family home as evident by little to no street

parking in many of its neighborhoods. Undoubtedly, the pandemic has exacerbated the high costs of housing and living in Arleta, CD 6, and the rest of the City. In efforts to assist the stability of our neighborhoods we have an alternative to a proposed homeless shelter:

The Arleta community recommends that ***affordable senior housing*** be situated at 9120 N Woodman Avenue. Applicants would be required to be vetted thoroughly prior to becoming members of the senior housing complex and *priority would be given to Arleta's seniors*. Given the high costs of housing some seniors may find it more advantageous to live at such a complex due to the high costs of single-family home maintenance. We are grateful for our seniors and the wisdom they hold and affordable senior housing is the best option for the subject property.

As decisions are being made regarding the housing of the unsheltered there are a number of questions and points that need to be considered by City, County, and State of California representatives:

- Is there any California law (or laws) that prevents people experiencing substance abuse addictions or mental illness—*while simultaneously being homeless*—from simply leaving a facility that provides shelter, treatment, rehabilitation, or other critically needed services?
- What systems does the City have in place to assess the status of shelters being at capacity, or not, given that "Project Roomkey sites are not locked and participants are free to self-exit" according to LAHSA Executive Director Heidi Marston.¹
- What are the consequences for people who are experiencing homelessness and/or substance abuse addictions that **reject** shelter and/or rehabilitative services and choose to continue to live on sidewalks, at parks, in alleys, in washes, streets, underpasses, overpasses, abandoned/occupied buildings, vehicles, remote open space, and other while continuing to endanger both the public health and safety of everyone in proximity and beyond?
- Are security at homeless shelters armed as well as those patrolling the perimeter of a homeless shelter? If there is security where is the source of funding and how long would that funding last?
- Do homeless intervention programs screen shelter candidates to assess whether they are citizens of the State of California?
- If homeless individuals are not from the State of California are they being returned to their states of origin?

¹ <https://www.dailynews.com/2021/02/18/citing-increases-in-homeless-population-norwalk-may-ask-federal-judge-for-right-to-enforce-anti-camping-laws/>

The efforts to combat homelessness are not without merit, however, no matter how well intended the services may be **the neighborhoods that host them continue** to have their security, business, community perception, and property values—among other issues—negatively impacted as expressed by the loss of sales revenue, higher crime rates, physical altercations among homeless/substance abusers themselves or with innocent bystanders/homeowners in the vicinity, fires/arsonist activity, noise pollution, visual blight, littering, illegal dumping, open use of drugs and related paraphernalia, and direct harassment/annoyance of children, businesses, taxpayers, homeowners, renters, neighbors, private and government employees, and visitors in the immediate surroundings of service sites. See figures below.



Figure 1. Vandalized automobile and vehicle dwelling (black truck) at 7860 Simpson Ave in Sun Valley at Fiesta housing complex which is the same parcel/lot where LA Family Housing is situated at 7843 Lankershim Blvd. Single- family residences face the housing complex on other side of Simpson Ave, see Fig. 2. February 27, 2021.



Figure 2. Fiesta homeless housing complex at 7860 Simpson Ave, Sun Valley. Part of LA Family Housing. No mitigation features or buffers to separate the towering homeless housing complex from the now absent privacy of the single-family residences across the street. Housing complex towers over single-family residences March 3, 2021.



Figure 3. Homeless tent encampments at 7901 Lankershim Blvd in Sun Valley on Arminta Street side across the street from LA Family Housing at 7843 Lankershim Blvd. Tents are at right side of photograph. Emphasis and location added in photograph February 27, 2021.

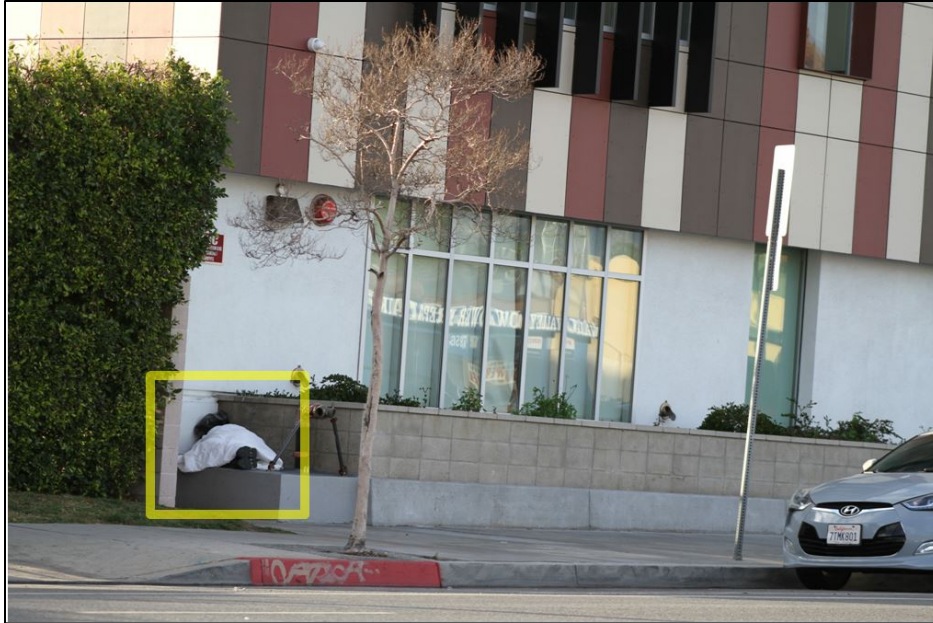


Figure 4. Homeless person in front of LA Family Housing at 7901 Lankershim Blvd in Sun Valley. Emphasis and location added in photograph. March 3, 2021.



Figure 5. Homeless tent encampments at 7744 Lankershim Blvd in Sun Valley at Stagg Street diagonally across from LA Family Housing complex. February 27, 2021.



Figure 6. Homeless encampment at 6946 Van Nuys Blvd in Van Nuys where both New Economics for Women and Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles are located. February 27, 2021.



Figure 7. Homeless encampment at 7304 Valjean Avenue at Wyandotte Street, on Wyandotte St side, across the street from Airtel Plaza Hotel which is still participating in ProjectRoomkey program. February 27, 2021.



Figure 8. Vagrants loitering in front of Airtel Plaza Hotel and Conference Center at 7277 Valjean Ave in Lake Balboa. The Airtel Plaza Hotel and Conference Center is situated in an industrial section of the valley adjacent to the Van Nuys Airport and single-family residences are not in proximity as the case would be at 9120 N Woodman Av. February 27, 2021.



Figure 9. Trash and unkempt surroundings at 6425 Tyrone Avenue in Van Nuys at Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission. February 27, 2021.



Figure 10. Homeless tent encampments at 14402 Gilmore Street and Sylmar Avenue in Van Nuys. This Los Angeles Department Of Transportation (LADOT) parking lot is in revenue service *and is also diagonally across* the street from Van Nuys Elementary which is at 6464 Sylmar Avenue. Encampment has been there since before September 25, 2019. Homeless service described in Figure 9 is also within a block distance of this site.



Figure 11. Porta Potty or portable toilet rental sits on sidewalk at 14402 Gilmore Street and Sylmar Avenue in Van Nuys. This LADOT lot is in revenue service *and is also diagonally across* the street from Van Nuys Elementary which is at 6464 Sylmar Avenue. Encampment has been there since before September 25, 2019. Homeless service described in Figure 9 is also within a block distance of this site.



Figure 12. While not in council district 6 but rather council district 13 these encampments are across the street (on Carlos Avenue) from First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood at 1760 N. Gower St., Hollywood. Do parishioners feel safe going there? Is this what is in store for Woodman Avenue at Nordhoff Street? Why are people experiencing homelessness (or substance abuse addictions) ***allowed to simply abandon their taxpayer paid shelter*** at any given moment and continue to live on our streets jeopardizing the health and safety of everyone? March 5, 2021.



Figure 13. While not in council district 6 but rather council district 13 these encampments are across the street (on Carlos Avenue) from First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood's elementary campus at Labaig Avenue and Carlos Avenue. Why do parents and students have to tolerate this? Why does the City of Los Angeles not push for laws in the State of California that would have punitive consequences for homeless with substance abuse conditions *that decline both rehabilitation services and shelter?* Why do Angelenos have to pay for the nation's homeless? Why are the homeless here? Is this what is in store for Woodman Avenue at Nordhoff Street? March 5, 2021.

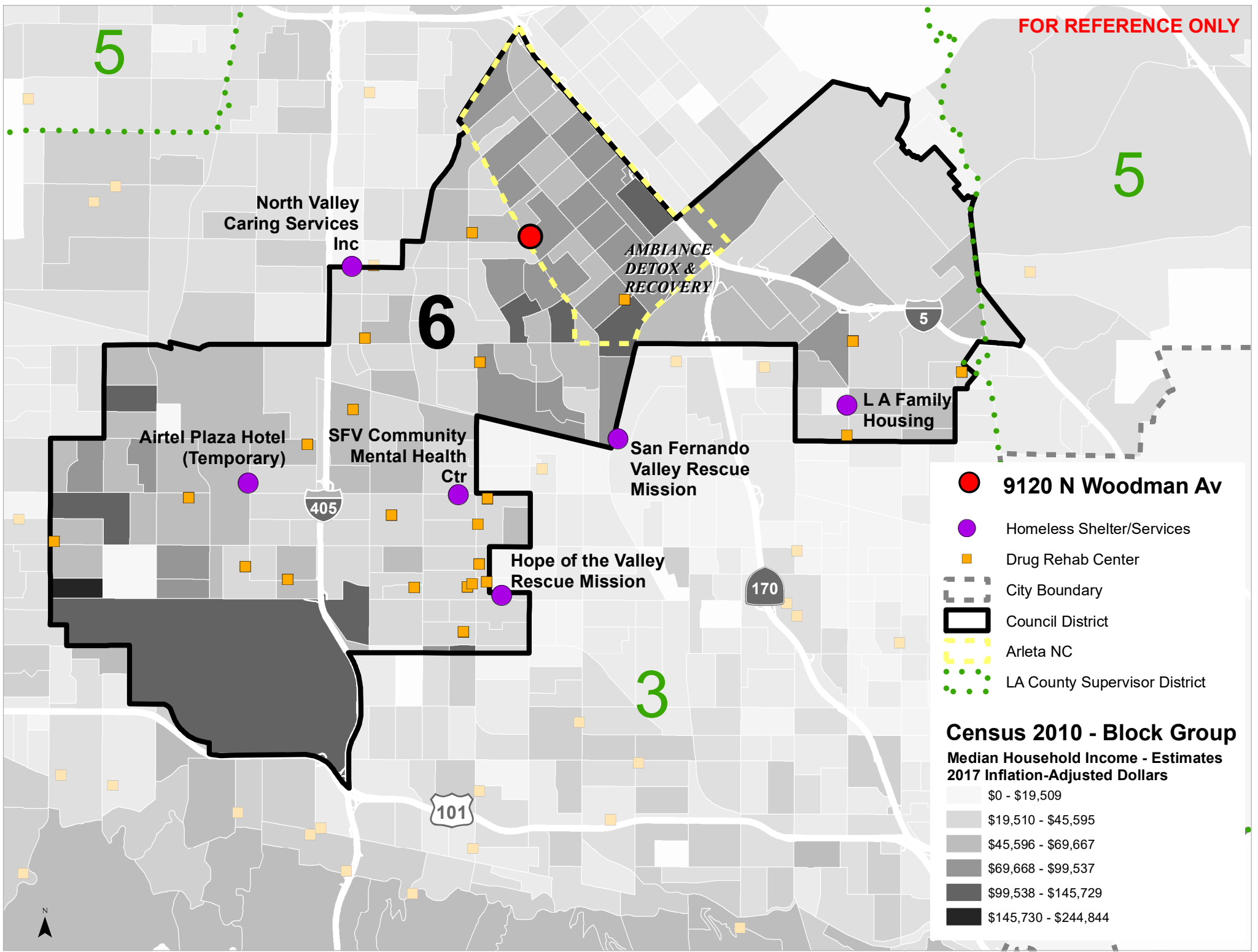
There is more definite crime taking place than what is being reported and many of Council District 6's communities have not fared better than its affluent communities within the district—and outside of it—as evident with the criminal activity registry for the period between February 2, 2021 and March 1, 2021.² The crime maps below will depict Arleta, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Van Nuys, Van Nuys Airport vicinity, Encino vicinity, Granada Hills, Porter Ranch, Northridge, West Hills, Woodland Hills, Studio City, and Toluca Lake.

Given the evidence in the aforementioned the Arleta Neighborhood Council firmly rejects a homeless shelter in its community or any kind of services for the unsheltered, no matter the targeted group, as the City of Los Angeles cannot guarantee businesses', homeowners', and renters' security, quiet and safe enjoyment of property and it is evident that there is no maintenance of public rights-of-way surrounding a shelter nor substance abuse addiction rehabilitation center.

Respectfully,

The Arleta Neighborhood Council

² <https://www.crimemapping.com/>



FOR REFERENCE ONLY

9120 N Woodman Av

Homeless Shelter/Services

Drug Rehab Center

City Boundary

Council District

Arleta NC

LA County Supervisor District

Census 2010 - Block Group

**Median Household Income - Estimates
2017 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars**

- \$0 - \$19,509
- \$19,510 - \$45,595
- \$45,596 - \$69,667
- \$69,668 - \$99,537
- \$99,538 - \$145,729
- \$145,730 - \$244,844

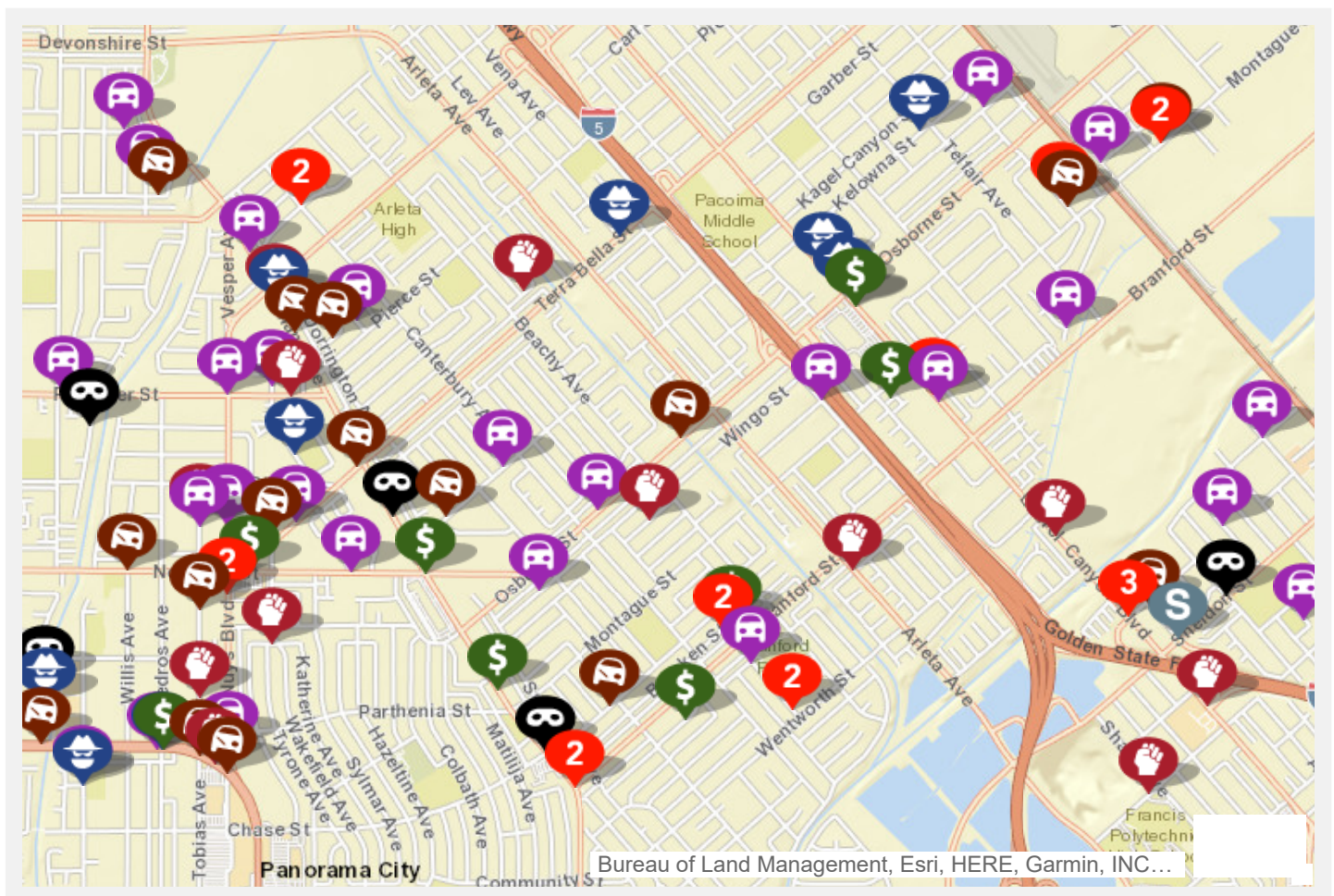
CrimeMapping.com Map

ARLETA

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

☐ Show crime report ☒ Show crime chart



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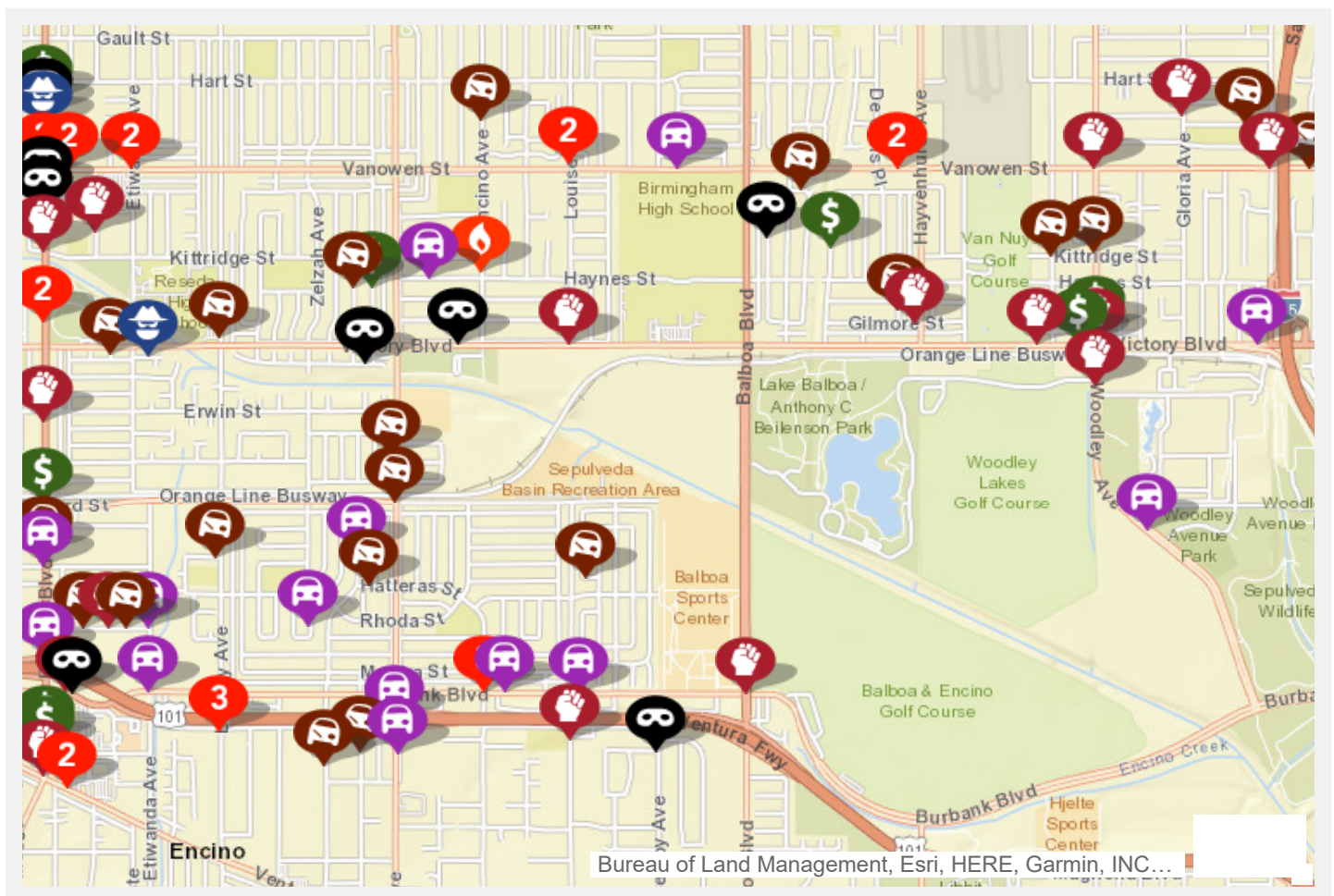
CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

ENCINO VICINITY

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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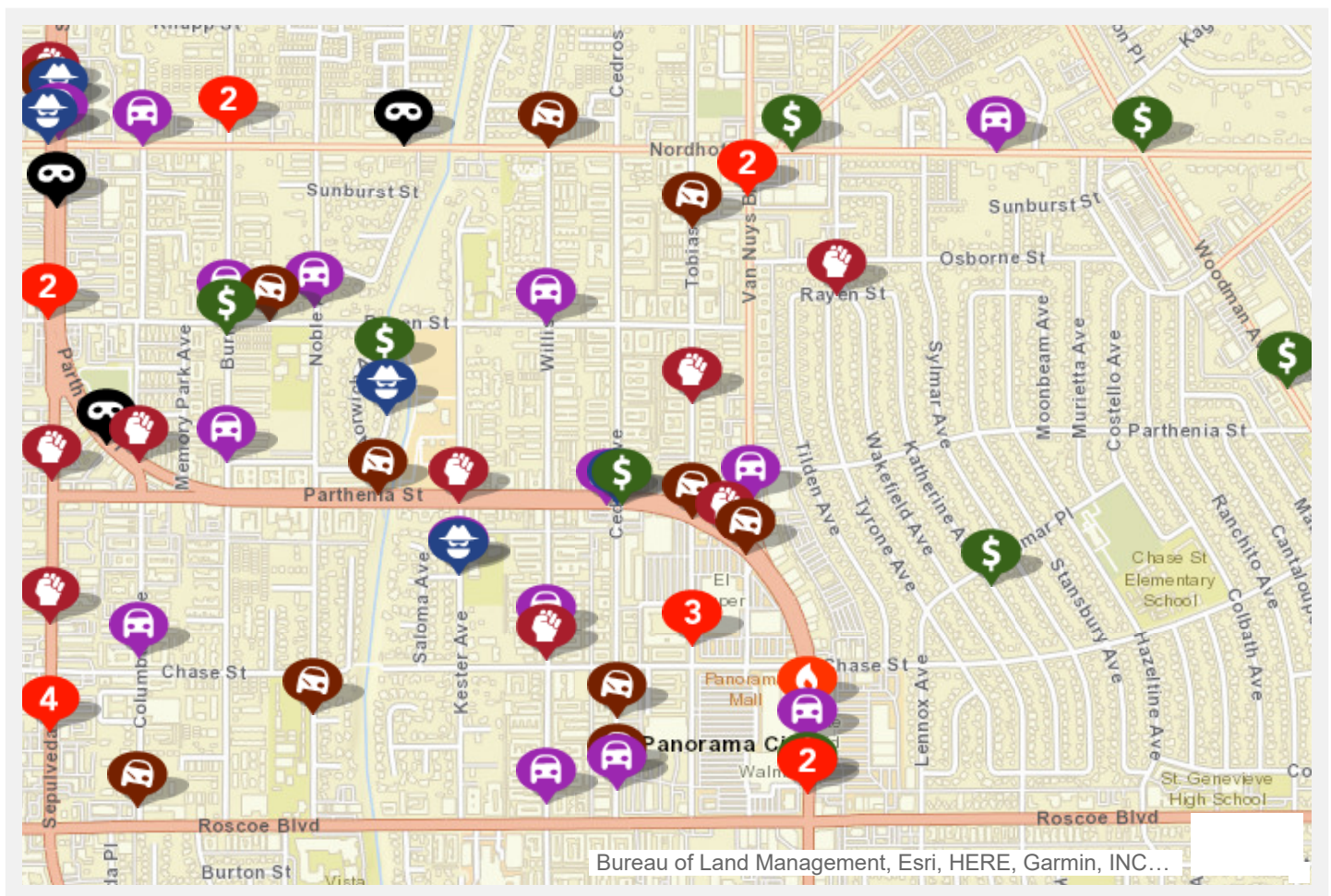
CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

PANORAMA CITY

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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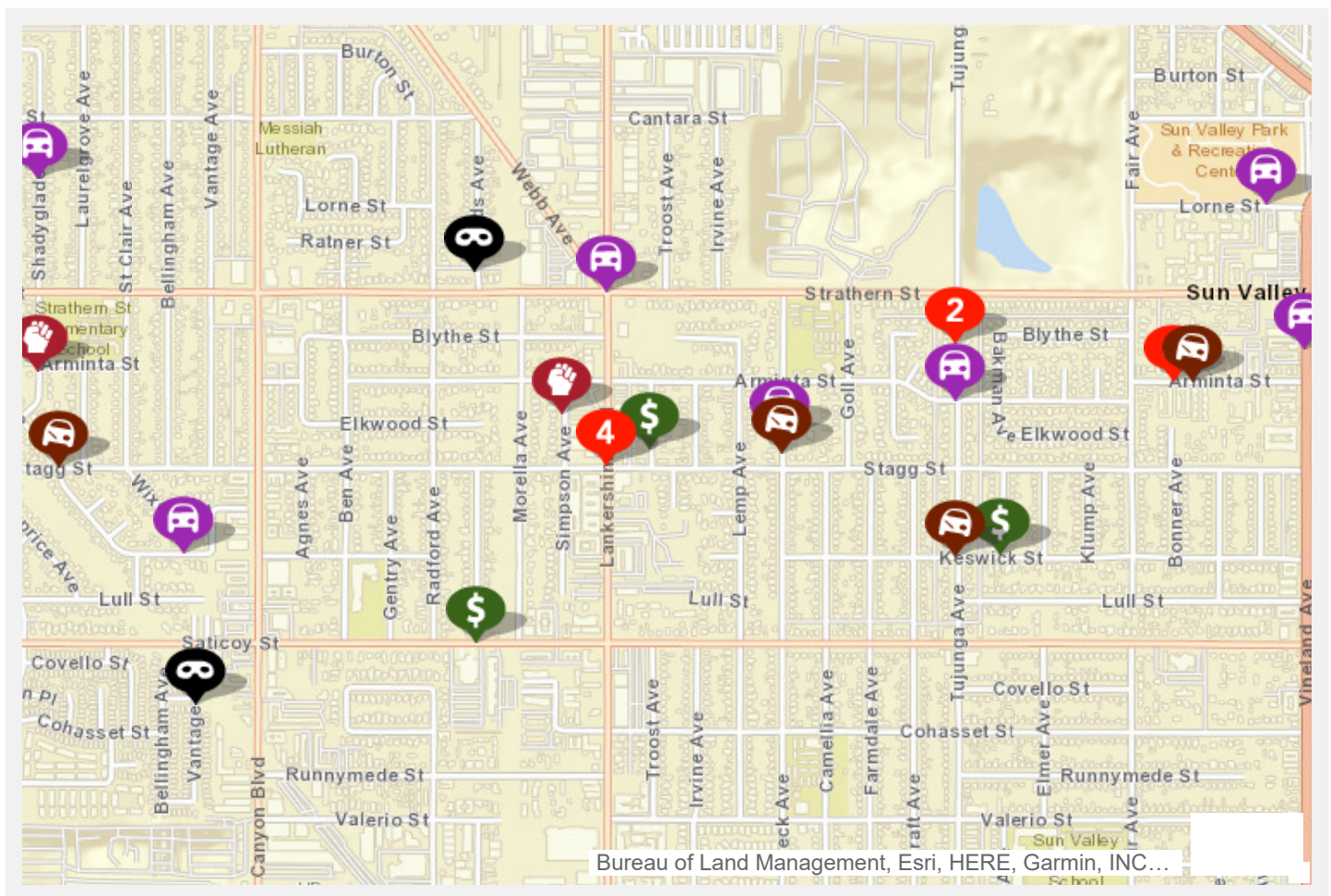


CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021 SUN VALLEY - LA FAMILY HOUSING AREA

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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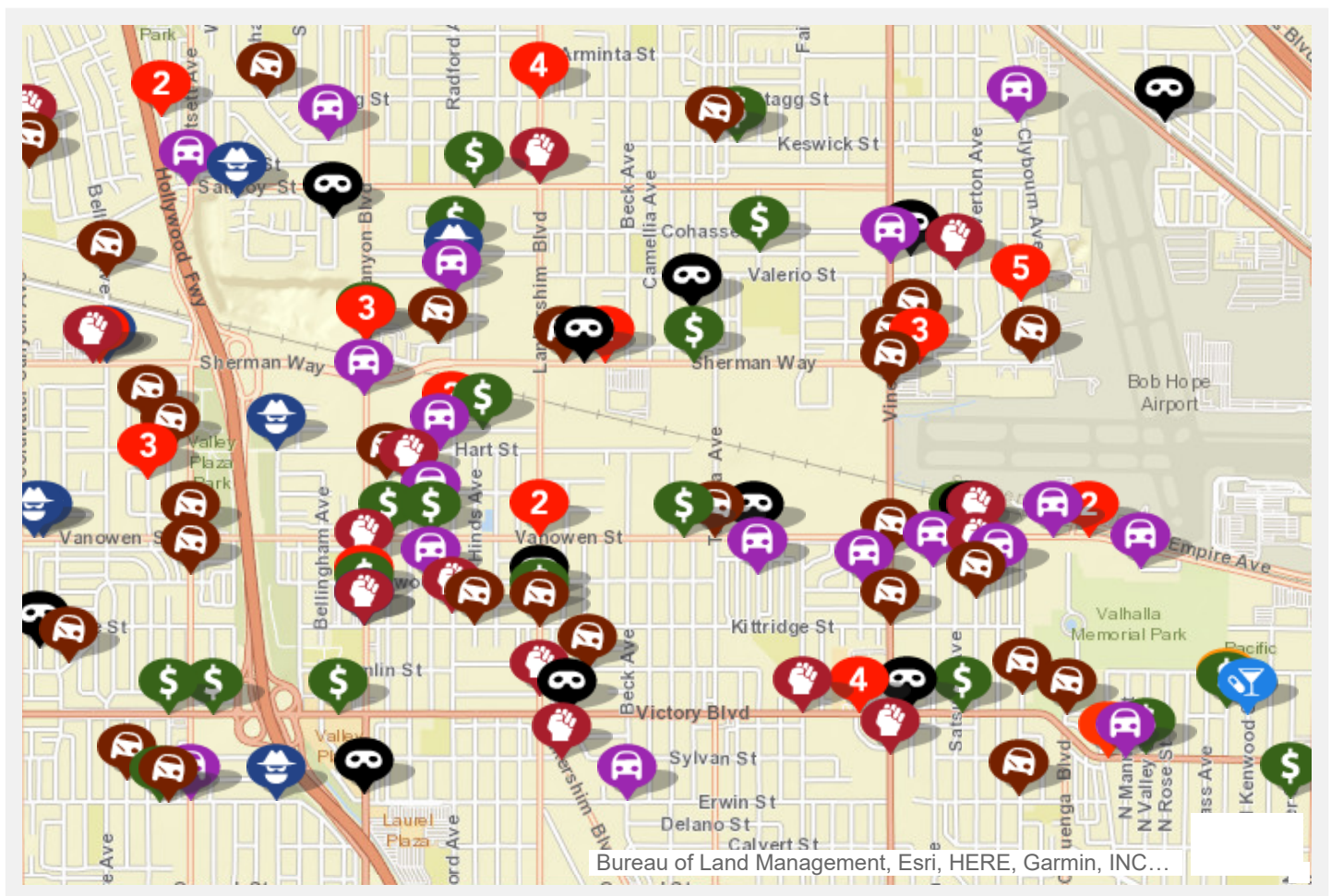
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Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

SUN VALLEY

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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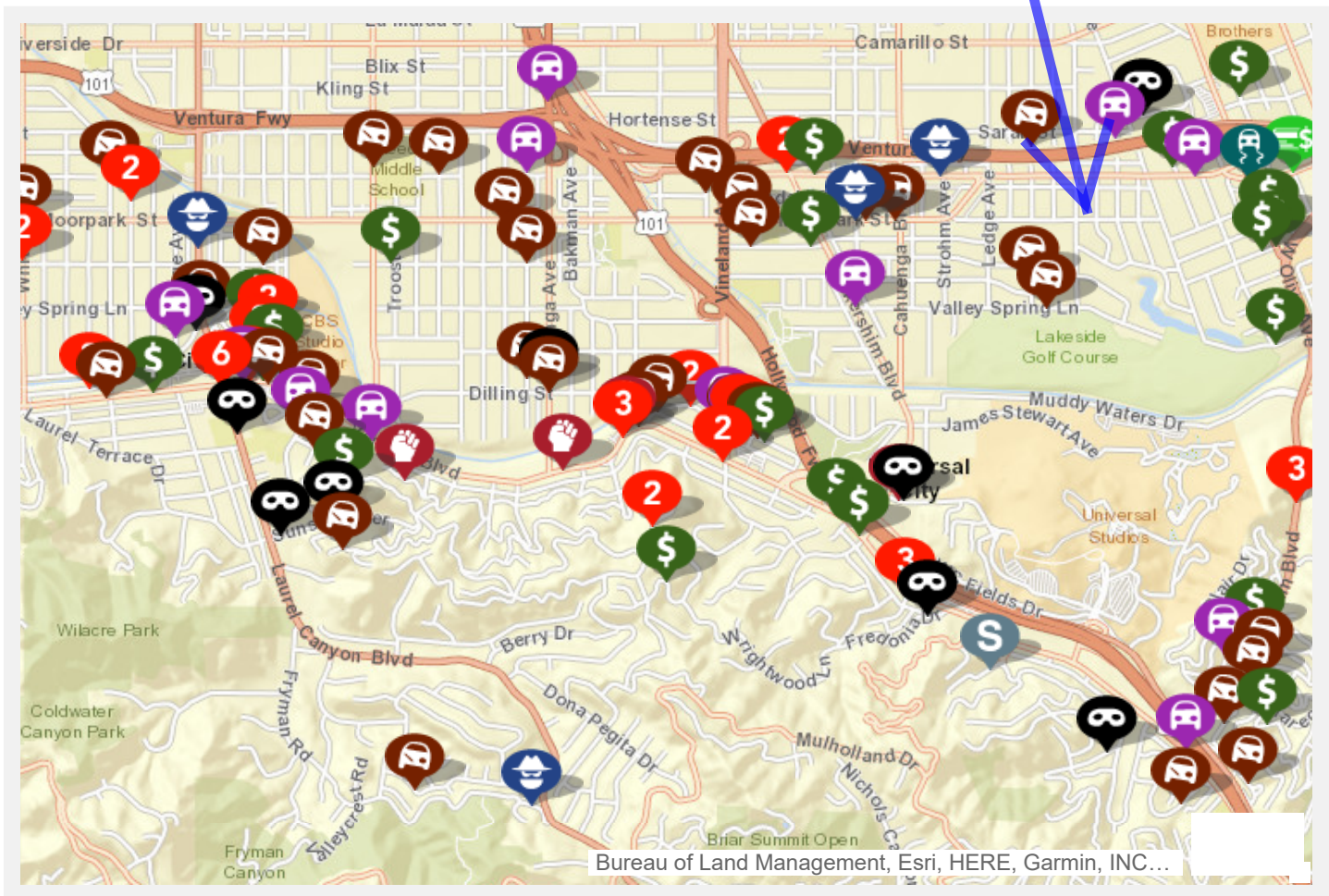
CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

TOLUCA LAKE and STUDIO CITY

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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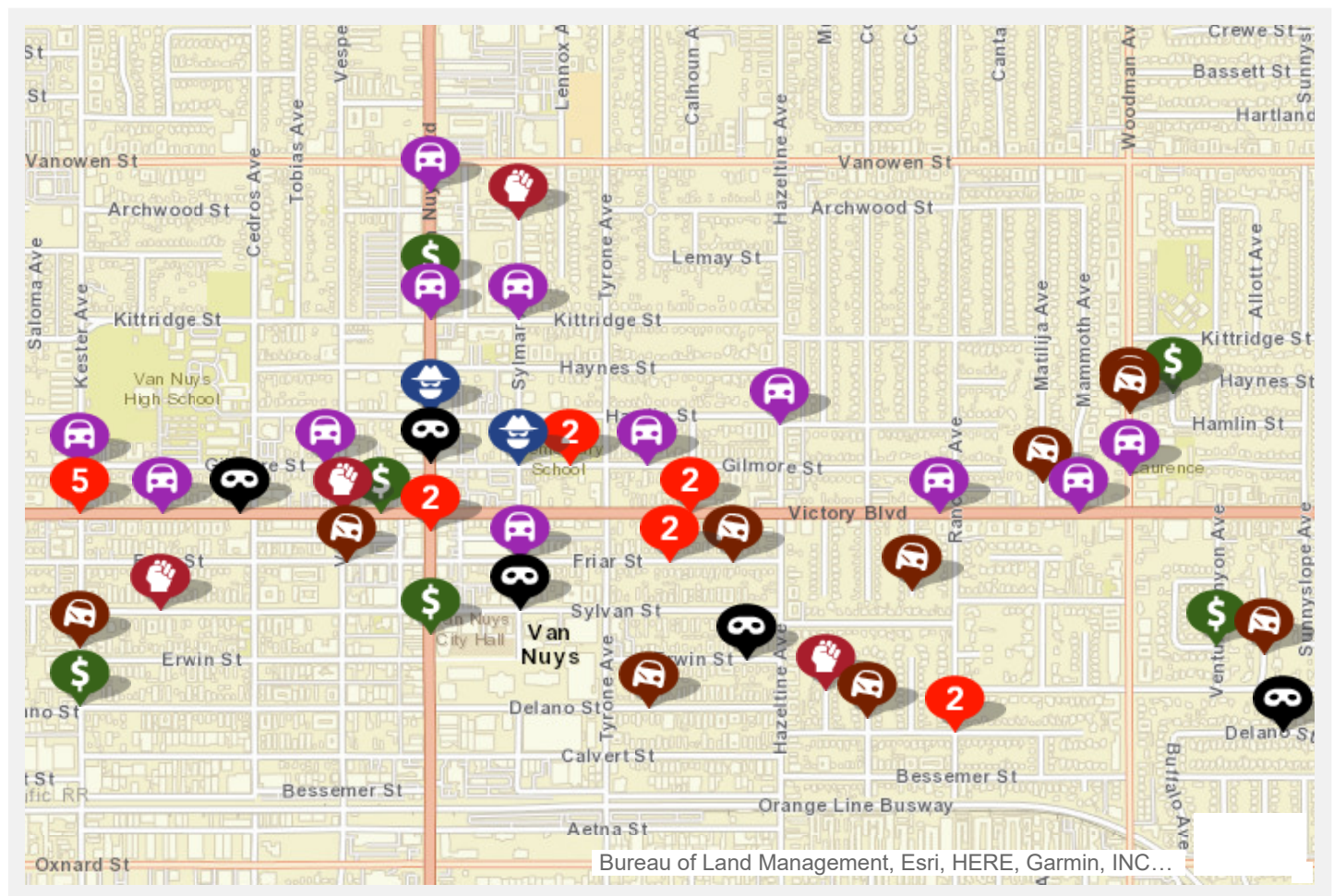
CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

VAN NUYS

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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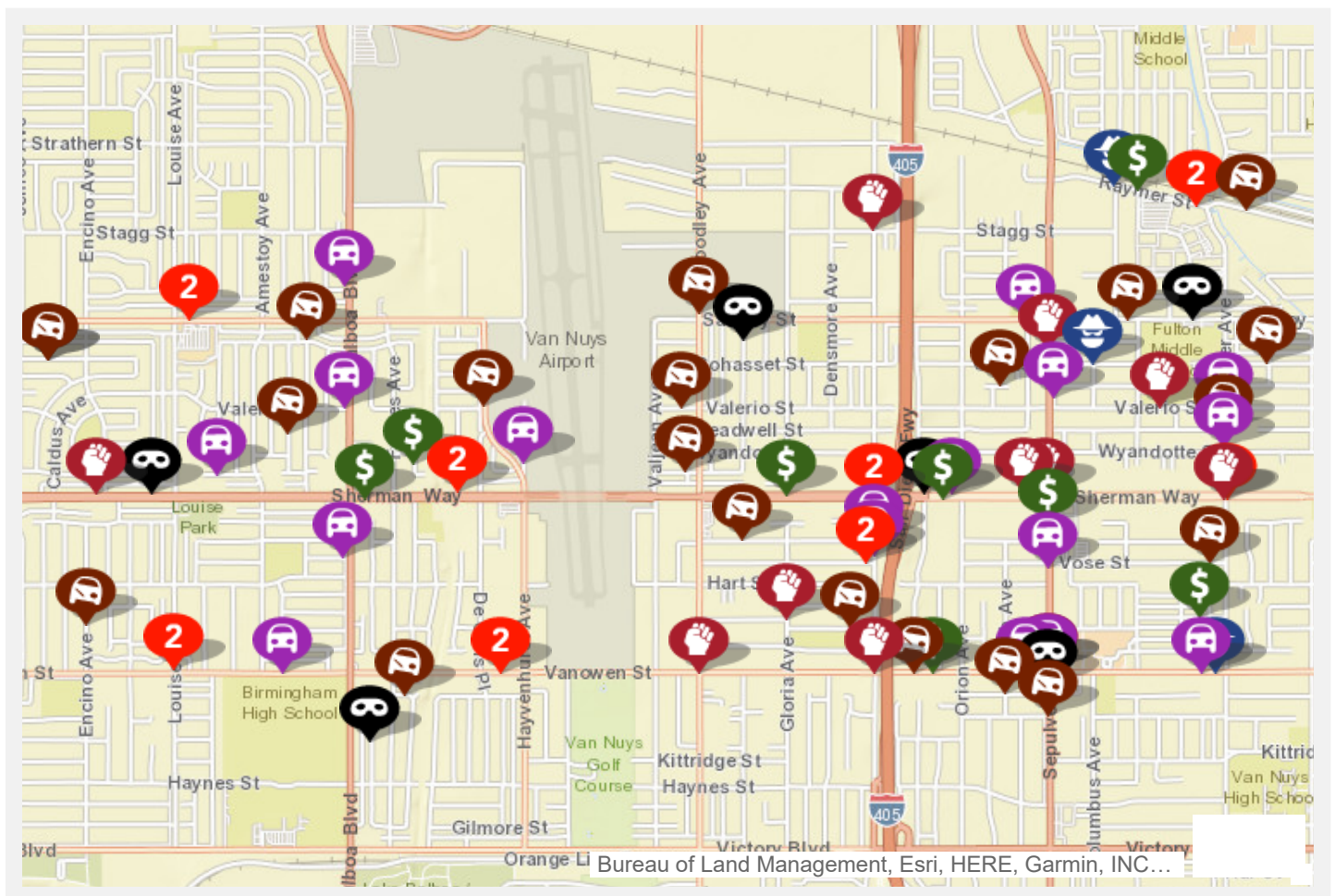
CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

VAN NUYS AIRPORT

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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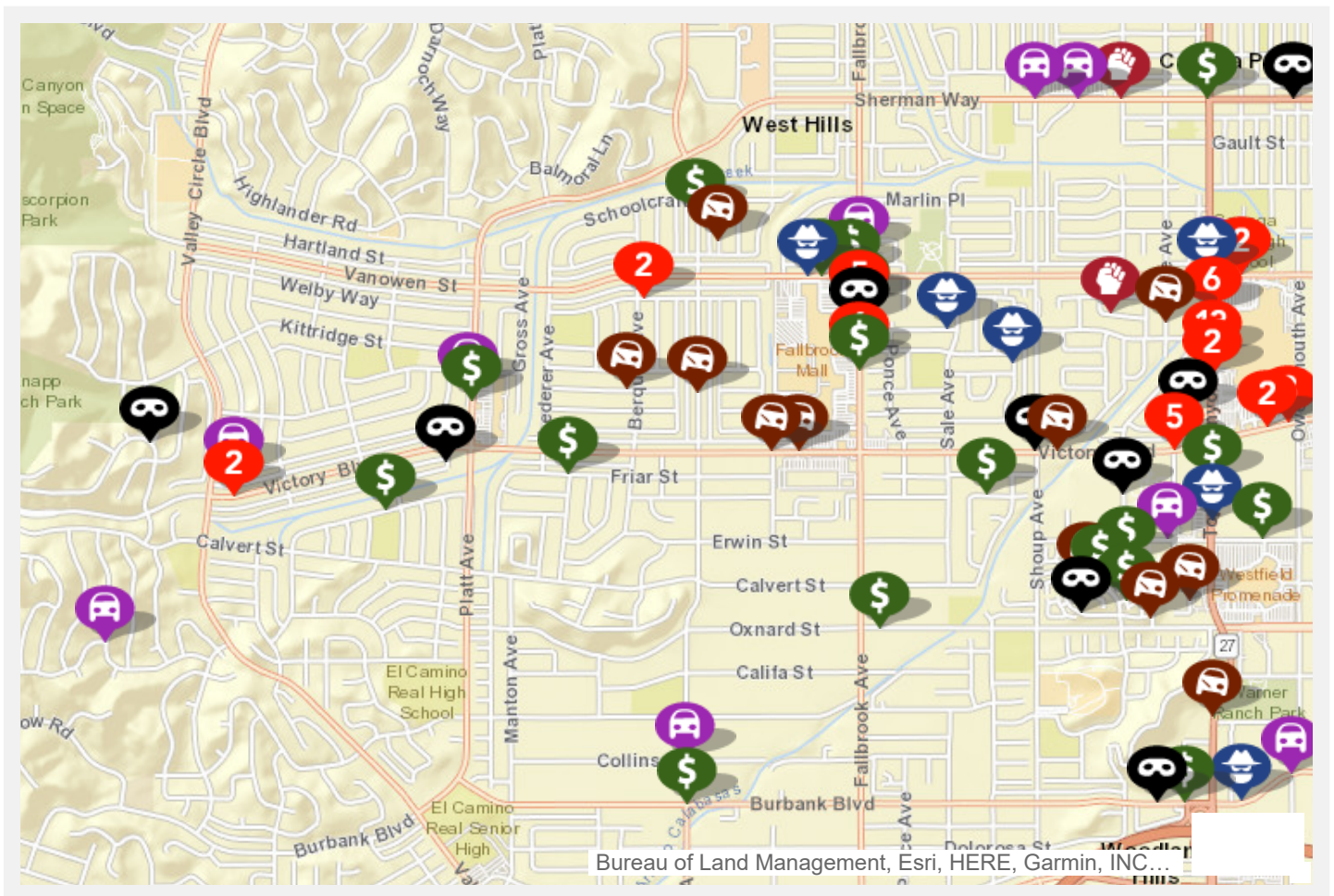
CrimeMapping.com Map

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 through Monday, March 1, 2021

WEST HILLS and partial CANOGA PARK

Showing crime types: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drugs / Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Sex Crimes, Theft / Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-In / Theft, Weapons

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