ZOOM Generated Meeting Notes for the
October 13, 2026 SONC Public Safety Committee Meeting

Key Outcomes:

- **Mosquito Control** strategies were detailed, emphasizing the rise of invasive Aedes mosquitoes and the current West Nile virus activity in Los Angeles County.
- **Crime Data** for Sherman Oaks showed a general decrease in total person and property crimes, though robbery and property crimes saw slight increases.
- **Public Safety Concerns** were raised regarding the lack of crossing guards and signage at Dixie Canyon Elementary, as well as the need for landscaping at LAFD Station 109.

Mosquito Control & Vector Management:

- **Aedes Mosquitoes ("Ankle Biters")**: These invasive mosquitoes are aggressive day/night biters that breed in tiny amounts of standing water (e.g., pet bowls) and can transmit Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya.
- **Culex Mosquitoes**: Native mosquitoes that primarily bite birds and transmit West Nile virus; they breed in larger bodies of water like pools and flood channels.
- **West Nile Virus Metrics**: There are approximately 140 human cases within the Greater LA County Vector Control District and 216 in the broader county.
- **Sterile Insect Technique**: A pilot program in Sunland Tujunga using sterilized male mosquitoes resulted in an 81% reduction in the wild mosquito population.
- **Prevention Tips**:
  - Use repellents with at least 15% active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535
  - Use fans to deter mosquitoes, as they are poor flyers
  - "Tip and toss" standing water or use lids on rain barrels

Crime Data & Police Updates:

- **Crime Metrics (August to September)**:
  - **Homicides**: Increased from 4 to 5
  - **Robbery**: Increased 36.4% (11 to 15 incidents)
  - **Aggravated Assaults**: Decreased 30% (40 to 28 incidents)
  - **Motor Vehicle Theft**: Decreased 18.2% (44 to 36 incidents)
  - **Total Person/Property Crimes**: Decreased 7% (280 to 267 incidents)
- **Illegal Casinos**: Police are targeting illegal casinos in residential areas and vacant businesses
- **Homelessness**: Approximately 30-40% of police calls are transient-related, with an increase in tents at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park

Community Safety Issues:

- **Dixie Canyon Elementary**: Parents reported a critical lack of crossing guards and school signage, noting that a parent was hit by a motorist last school year
- **Street Cleaning Conflict**: Street cleaning (8 AM – 10 AM) coincides with school drop-off times, exacerbating double-parking issues on Dixie Canyon
- **LAFD Station 109**: A pancake breakfast on November 8 (9 AM – 12 PM) is being organized to raise funds for a circular driveway to improve emergency vehicle access

CERT & Training:

- **Upcoming Classes**: A 7-week CERT training course will run from January 6 to February 17 at the Sherman Oaks Galleria
- **Virtual Meeting**: A session on search and rescue, triage, and incident command systems is being held for the Battalion 12 area.

Action Items:

- **Raquel**: Provide the specific name and application cadence of the pesticide used in street gutters to Christy.
- **Raquel**: Email the mosquito control slide deck (PowerPoint and PDF) to Susan, Penny, and Christy.
- **David Park**: Forward correspondence and dates regarding the Dixie Canyon Elementary safety issues to Susan and Christy.
- **Lori Stevens**: Email the LAFD Station 109 pancake breakfast flyer to the council for promotion.