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Security cameras put 'eyes' on Van Nuys Boulevard

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This is the control panel in the LAPD Foothill Division station where new surveillance cameras are being monitored. The cameras, which show areas along Van Nuys Boulevard, went into service in October 2011. (David Crane/Daily News Staff Photographer)

Hoping to deter crime in Pacoima, the Los Angeles Police Department showed off eight new security cameras that were recently installed on Van Nuys Boulevard between the Golden State (5) Freeway and Foothill Boulevard. | [PHOTOS](#)

The safety initiative was spearheaded by City Councilman Richard Alarcon, who unveiled the equipment at the LAPD's Foothill Area division Monday morning.

"When revenue is down, we have to be smarter about fighting crime with what we have," said Alarcon, who used Community Redevelopment Agency funds to pay for the \$300,000 project.

Attached to light poles, the high-tech cameras film all the action along Van Nuys Boulevard,

including passing cars, pedestrians strolling down the block, and shoppers entering stores. Additionally, the cameras capture activity on side streets off Van Nuys Boulevard.

The real-time film footage will be monitored by community volunteers, as well as the watch commander at the Foothill Area division. Similar technology is already in place at the LAPD Mission and Southwest divisions.

Already, the cameras, which were installed in October, helped lead to the arrest of a suspect believed to be behind a string of vandalism incidents in the area, according to Captain Joseph Hiltner.

Overall, crime in the area is down 15 percent from last year.

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