

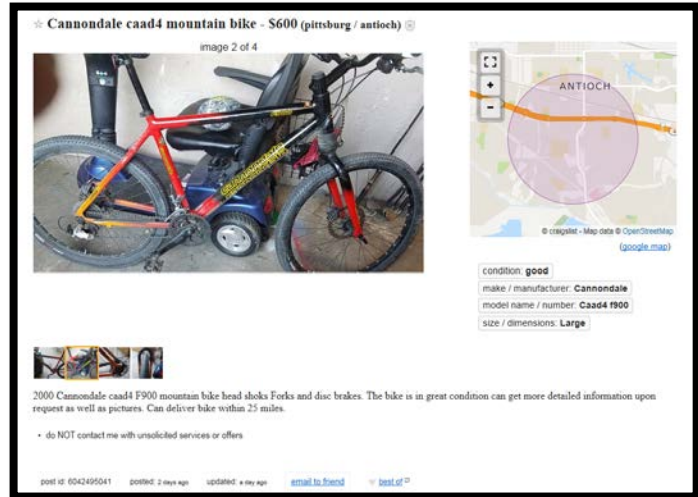


# Bicycle Theft

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing information about an incident that recently occurred in the city. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform residents about the incident and to obtain information that may assist us in our investigation.

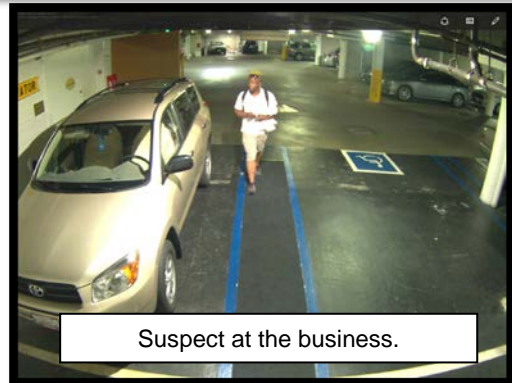
### DR # 17-3205 / 16-10931

On Monday, 3/13/17, LPD Officers were dispatched to a commercial business in the 3200 Block of Mt. Diablo Boulevard for the report of a theft of a bicycle. Upon their arrival, officers made contact with an employee of the business. The employee identified that he had ridden his bicycle to work and upon his arrival, had locked the bicycle to the bike rack. When the employee returned to the bike rack at the end of his shift, he found his bicycle missing. Fellow employees of the business reviewed the surveillance tape for that area of the business. They observed an individual leaving the area of the bike rack with the employees bicycle. The security footage provided the date and time that the theft occurred as well as an image of the vehicle that had been used by the suspect. LPD Investigators were able to determine a make and proximate model of the vehicle. The business provided the description of the vehicle to other employees, so they could ensure the vehicle did not return to the business.



The manager of the business reviewed the videotape and was confident this was the same suspect who had burglarized a customer's vehicle several months prior. The vehicle did return to the business, the driver of the vehicle was told to leave and employees obtained a partial license plate number for the vehicle. The employees who had seen the car were also able to verify the make and model of the vehicle - which they provided to investigators.

Because the business was able to provide an accurate date and time of the crime, investigators reviewed the neighborhood cameras in the area of the business. LPD Investigators were able to locate several images which matched the description and partial license plate of the suspect vehicle. LPD Investigators then began to research the vehicle, its owner and those who had been contacted while driving the vehicle.



Suspect at the business.

LPD Investigators were then notified that co-workers of the employee who had lost their bicycle had been monitoring internet classified ad sites to attempt to locate the bicycle. On Tuesday, 3/14/17, the co-workers were able to locate the bicycle for sale on an internet site. Those employees then notified LPD Investigators of their discovery. LPD Investigators then contacted the seller of the bicycle to inquire if the bike was still for sale and expressed an interest in buying the bike. The seller agreed to meet to sell the bicycle at a nearby BART Station the following day.

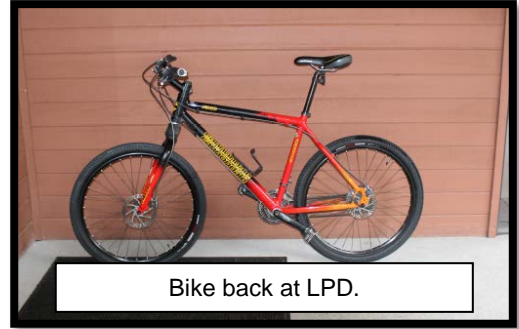


Suspect vehicle leaving the city.

LPD Investigators then reviewed the previous crime that had been reported at the business. In August of 2016, an unknown suspect broke out the window of a vehicle and removed a set of golf clubs from a parked car. The business provided video recordings of the theft and the suspect who had done the theft. The suspect had driven a vehicle that was similar to the one used in the recent theft. LPD Investigators were able to determine the subject and the vehicle were the same in both crimes.

# Bicycle Theft - 3/16/17

On Thursday morning (3/15/17), LPD Investigators obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect. LPD Investigators then met with members of the Sheriff's Investigation and Patrol Divisions (as the transaction was to take place in their jurisdictional area). The group then traveled to the BART Station to await the suspect's arrival. The suspect arrived at the station, accompanied by a juvenile. As investigators watched, the suspect removed the bicycle from the vehicle and directed the juvenile to ride the bike to the lower parking lot of the station to meet the buyer. The suspect then walked into the BART Station and entered the station - while watching the juvenile ride the bike to the parking lot. When the juvenile and bicycle were detained by train investigators, the suspect moved to the train platform to board a waiting train. Before he could board the train he was detained by plainclothes Sheriff's Investigators.



The suspect and the juvenile were both transported to LPD, where they were both interviewed. The vehicle the pair arrived in was towed to LPD Storage. The juvenile was released to his parents and the suspect who had originally stolen the bicycle was transported and booked at the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF). The suspect remains in custody. Our investigators will meet with the District Attorney's Office to file charges on the suspect tomorrow (3/17/17). The bicycle was returned to its owner.

**Investigation.** This success in this investigation was because of the work done by the co-workers of the owner of the bicycle. There are dozens of sites where property can now be sold on the internet. Having a group of dedicated sleuths working to help find the stolen property is priceless. Investigators believe because of the efforts of the co-workers, they have two solid cases to file.

**Prevention.** In this case, the employee secured their bicycle to deter theft. The business had installed security cameras to aid in solving crimes when and if they occur in the area. From the security footage we were able to define the date and time of the crime - leading to the identification of the vehicle. The owner of the bicycle had not recorded the serial number of the bike, but was able to identify unique characteristics of the bike to allow it to be verified as being his own. Just taking a picture of the serial number of the bike and storing it on your telephone is all you need to do. When the bike is stolen, you can give us the serial number which significantly improves your chances of getting the bike back. If your property is stolen, we encourage residents to look for their property to be sold on local and regional classified ad programs. Any help a victim can provide in solving the case is always appreciated.

**E-Mail Alerts.** If you are a resident of the City of Lafayette and are not currently receiving our email alerts, please contact Chief Christensen at [echri@so.cccounty.us](mailto:echri@so.cccounty.us). Provide your name, street address and an email address. We want to make sure that all of our residents are aware of significant incidents and crime trends within our community.

**Nixle Alerts.** Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to our alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alerting System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about incidents such as this one. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website ([www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)) - a free service for our residents.

**LOCK YOUR  
WINDOWS  
AND DOORS**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Emergency                     | 911  |
| Dispatch (Non-Emergency)      | (925) 284-5010   |
| Police Department Office      | (925) 283-3680   |
| Tip Line                      | <a href="mailto:94549Tip@gmail.com">94549Tip@gmail.com</a>     |
| Email                         |  |
| SGT Rossberg (Investigations) | <a href="mailto:TRoss@so.cccounty.us">TRoss@so.cccounty.us</a> |
| Det Dennison (Investigations) | <a href="mailto:JDenn@so.cccounty.us">JDenn@so.cccounty.us</a> |
| Det Ones (Investigations)     | <a href="mailto:VOnes@so.cccounty.us">VOnes@so.cccounty.us</a> |



**PLEASE call us if  
you see suspicious  
individuals or  
vehicles in your  
business or  
neighborhood.**

**Thinking About a Camera?**

When it comes to improving the security of your own home or your neighborhood, there are few things that can beat the installation of a home camera system. Cameras today are reasonably priced, don't require a lot of work to install, and can easily be connected to your home Wi-Fi System. We have several camera models at the police department that you can come and borrow for a quick test-drive. We have several different makes and models that you can compare how they work before you buy. The image quality of these cameras is just amazing and can provide some excellent leads in helping us solve your case or the case of a neighbor. Give us a call to find out what cameras are available and to reserve the type you are the most interested in. Please contact the coordinator for this program, Cathy Surges-Moscato by email and she will give you some great advice and set you up with a loaner ([CSurges@ci.lafayette.ca.us](mailto:CSurges@ci.lafayette.ca.us)).

