



City of Lafayette Police Department

Crime Bulletin

March 2015



Attempted Burglary

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing this information about an incident that recently occurred within the City. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform residents about the incident and to obtain additional information to aid the police department in our investigation.

DR # 15 - 4890

On Monday, 3/23/15 at 1157 hours, Lafayette Officers were dispatched to the area of Oak Hill Road and Orchard Road for the report of a suspicious vehicle. A neighbor observed a vehicle that was parked in the driveway of his neighbors' home. The resident reported they had never seen the vehicle and felt it was suspicious that the vehicle was in their driveway.

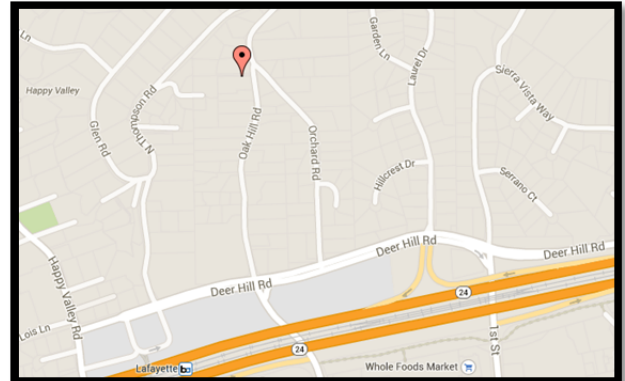
As officers responded to the neighborhood, the neighbor updated that the vehicle had now left the home and appeared to be occupied by four male subjects, who appeared to be in their 20's. The neighbor provided officers with the license plate of the vehicle and a direction of travel for the vehicle.

Upon the arrival of officers to the neighborhood, they began to search for the vehicle and its occupants. A short time later, the vehicle was spotted by a motor officer in the same neighborhood. Officers were then updated by dispatch that this same vehicle was recently involved in a shoplifting incident in the city. The retailer advised dispatch that a subject had entered the store and selected a box of latex gloves from within the store. The subject then fled the store without paying for the merchandise, entering an awaiting vehicle that matched the description of the vehicle being followed by the motor officer. A traffic stop of the vehicle was made and the four subjects within the vehicle were contacted by officers.

Officers then responded to the store where the theft occurred to find out what had happened. Meanwhile, other officers responded back to identify if any homes within the area had been broken into. The four subjects provided officers with names and dates of birth that did not verify through the computer system. Officers used their mobile fingerprint readers to verify the identities of the individuals. Three of the individuals were identified by the fingerprint system and all had lied about their true identities. One was found to be on parole for robbery, with a warrant for his arrest for being a parolee-at-large. He was arrested for the warrant and for providing false information to a peace officer. Another was found to be on parole and had provided false information as well. The third individual was identified as the subject who had stolen from the store and was also arrested. The remaining subject was positively identified and released at the scene. The vehicle was towed by the police department and the arrested subjects transported to the jail.

A short time later, a resident from the same neighborhood called dispatch to report an incident at her home. The caller identified that thirty minutes prior, a 20 year old subject in a hooded sweatshirt knocked upon her door. When she answered, the subject asked if "Michael" lived at the home. She replied there was no "Michael" at the home and closed the door.

The suspects then left the driveway of the residence in a vehicle matching the description of the vehicle stopped by the officers a short time later.



Neighborhood Camera System Image



Neighborhood Camera System Image

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Attempted Burglary - 23 MAR 15

Investigation. Our investigators are asking residents in the neighborhoods north of Deer Hill Road to examine their residential camera systems to identify if these subjects came to their doors or may have attempted to make entry to their home. Residents who locate surveillance camera images or have other information which may aid our investigators are asked to contact the police department.

Prevention. An alert neighbor who thought something was odd alerted police department. The suspects, who had just stolen gloves, obviously intended to burglarize a home in the neighborhood. When they checked a home to see if anyone was there, they were met at the door by a resident. They left, returning to their car. The group then likely began to circle the neighborhood to find a different home to burglarize, when officers found them first. While this incident may have turned out well, there are a couple of good lessons that can be learned from this incident.

1. When in doubt, report suspicious activity. The neighbor who called in the suspicious vehicle saw the car in their neighbors' driveway and drove around the block an additional time to see what was going on. The neighbor told officers he knew "something was odd", but wanted to take a second look before calling. **PLEASE** call if you see something that you believe to be strange or out of place. The sooner we get the call, the sooner officers can be in the area.

2. Recognize suspicious activity and call the police. Today, it is extremely odd for anyone to come to your door and ask if someone lives at your home that does not. Likewise, if someone comes to the door and asks for directions to the freeway, we want you to call us immediately. These are typical ruses done by burglars to see if anyone is at home. When something like this happens at your home, we need you to call us immediately. It may not be your home that is burglarized, but it will likely be your neighbors. Lately we have been seeing residents that wait thirty or more minutes to call us to report these incidents. **PLEASE** call immediately if something like this happens at your home.

3. When you are at home, make sure your doors are locked. You should never answer the door to someone that you don't recognize, especially if you are at home alone. One of the subjects that were arrested today was a person who was on parole for robbery. That means they have already spent time in prison for that kind of crime. Because they were likely still doing crime, they were now considered to be a parolee-at-large. A stranger is just that, someone that you know nothing about. Don't be rude, but talking through a closed and locked door is a much safer practice to use when home alone.

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. 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) - a free service for our residents.

Emergency	911
Dispatch (Non-Emergency)	(925) 284-5010
Police Department Office	(925) 283-3680
Tip Line	94549Tip@gmail.com
Email	
SGT Shiells (Investigations)	HShie@so.cccounty.us
Det Dennison (Investigations)	JDenn@so.cccounty.us
Det Ones (Investigations)	VOnes@so.cccounty.us



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

Home Security Forum

On April 21st, the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission will host a community meeting on Home Security and Home Security Cameras. The meeting will be held at the Lafayette Veterans Building (3780 Mount Diablo Boulevard) and will begin at 7p.m.. Topics will include home surveillance systems, alarm systems, and other tips to make your home more crime-resilient.



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