



City of Lafayette Police Department

Crime Bulletin

July 2014



BV Auto Burglaries

The City of Lafayette Police Department is alerting residents to a series of crimes that have occurred within the City in the past few days. The purpose of this bulletin is to advise residents of the incidents and to obtain additional information to aid the police department in our investigation.

Over the past few months the City has suffered a series of auto burglaries from various locations within the City. These crimes are frustrating for everyone involved, especially the victims. Not only do victims have to repair the broken window or the door whose lock has been punched out, but they have to replace the items that were taken by the thieves. Sometimes, the crooks don't even need to take the risk of breaking into the car, as some of our residents are not even locking their cars at night.

Auto Burglaries are one of the most difficult crimes to solve because the crooks rarely leave evidence behind and when they strike, they generally victimize a number of our residents at the same time. For the police department, it's frustrating as well. We often don't get too many leads or clues as to who did this crime, when they did it, and how they did it.

Well the other night (Thursday morning) a group came to town seeking their fortune. What they did not count on was an involved neighbor. When our resident learned that their neighbors' purse had been stolen from their car overnight, they reviewed their residential security system. Sure enough, their surveillance system captured the entire crime. At 4:01 in the morning, the car drove up the street and parked in front of the neighbors' house. A subject exits the car and runs up the driveway. A short time later the subject returns to the car and the car calmly drives down the street - stopping to victimize several other neighbors in the area before they left town.

Armed with the time of the crime and a description of the vehicle, officers reviewed images from another neighborhood system. Two minutes later, officers had the license plate of the suspect vehicle. Part of their take that night were several credit cards. The credit cards were used the next day by the suspects at a variety of stores, several of which had camera systems. Our investigators worked to put the pieces together and obtained warrants to identify the suspects and locate the stolen property - because of the car.

Our investigators were able to locate the vehicle, which was promptly taken to car jail. They then identified the male and female subjects who were involved in the thefts and the fraudulent use of the credit cards. When one of the subjects was interviewed at the jail, they were shocked that they had been identified. These were not kids looking for spare change, to the contrary, one of the subjects had previously spent four years in state prison. Not the kind of person you want in your driveway or to have your driver's license, credit cards and cell phone. Much of the property that was taken in the thefts had already been exchanged for narcotics.

Our investigators are currently looking for more information from residents in Burton Valley who may have had their vehicles burglarized or ransacked on early Thursday Morning. If you had property taken or have information that may aid in our investigation, please let us know.



Residential Camera System



Neighborhood Camera System



Shopping with stolen cards



Car going to car jail

" A Community Partnership "

BV Auto Burglary Alert - 15JUL 14

Prevention. These crooks were literally driving from house to house, trying to find cars that were unlocked and then rifling through the cars to find what they could steal. When rewarded with purses and computers, they are going to tell their friends and we are going to have more of these types of thefts. **At night, take your valuables into your home with you and lock your car.** Don't leave anything in the car that can be seen by someone from outside the car - tempting them to break into the car. Purses, wallets, and car keys should not be left in plain sight - with the expectation that they will be there in the morning.

In this case, an alert neighbor with a camera system played the key role in leading us to the suspects. This is the second crime that this neighbor has solved in their neighborhood. The more information we can get about a crime, (time, vehicles involved, etc.) the more likely we are going to be able to solve it.

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



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

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