

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

February 2007

Hardening the Target

Telephone fraud involves criminals posing as jury duty enforcers

The FBI is again warning the public against an ongoing scheme involving jury service. Although this is not a new scam, recent cases have surfaced that prompt yet another warning. The public needs to be aware that individuals identifying themselves as U.S. or local court employees have been contacting citizens via telephone and advising them that they have been selected for jury duty. These individuals ask to verify the victims' names and Social Security numbers and then request the victims' credit card numbers. If

the request is refused, citizens are then threatened with fines.

The judicial system does not contact people on the phone and ask for personal information such as your Social Security number, date of birth or credit card numbers. If you receive one of these phone calls, do not provide any personal or confidential information to these individuals. This is an attempt to steal or use your identity by obtaining your name and Social Security number to potentially apply for credit, credit cards or loans in your name. It is an attempt to defraud you.

If you have already been contacted and have already given out your personal information, please monitor your account statements and credit reports, and contact your local FBI office. Local FBI field office telephone numbers can be found in the front of your local telephone directory or on www.fbi.gov. For further information, please review the "Newsroom" news article entitled "WARNING: Bogus Phone Calls on Jury Service May lead to Fraud," August 19, 2005, which is posted on the U.S. Court's website at www.uscourts.gov.

New California Vehicle Code laws take effect

During the 2006 legislative year, 145 changes were made to the California Vehicle Code. The following list includes a small sample of the changes to existing traffic-related laws that took effect on Jan. 1, 2007 unless indicated otherwise.

AB 1850 creates a new infraction for allowing a person to ride in the trunk of a car. Persons found guilty will be subject to a fine, and the driver will have a negligent operator point attached to his license.

AB 2190 increases the penalties for reckless driving or engaging in a vehicle speed contest. Specified injuries to others as a result would subject first-time offenders to hefty fines and jail or prison time ranging from 30 days to six months.

SB 1610 requires drivers to take specific precautionary actions on a highway when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with activated emergency lights. It is now an infraction

if drivers do not properly comply with directions from on-scene personnel.

SB 1613, which takes effect July 1, 2008, prohibits drivers from operating cell phones in their vehicles without a hands-free device. Exemptions will exist for emergencies. The first offense will result in a \$20 fine and rise to \$50 for each subsequent offense.

SB 1756 increases the mandatory suspension of a driver license from six months to 10 months for the first DUI offense if the person's blood alcohol content (BAC) is .20 or higher.

SB 1586 allows greater public access to DUI conviction information for violations that occurred in the past 10 years. Prior to January 1, only law enforcement and the courts were able to access the 10-year history.

AB 2169 extends the "Safe at Home Law" for five years to Jan. 1, 2013. The program creates an alternative driver license address for victims of domestic violence and/or stalk-

ing. The law also allows the DMV to continue "suppressing" victims' license and vehicle registration records.

AB 2291 prohibits computer vendors, vehicle manufacturers and other specified entities from accessing customers' private information from a vehicle dealer's computer system without the dealer's consent.

AB 2120 allows nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and physicians' assistants to substantiate a disability so a person may receive a disabled person parking placard or disabled veteran's parking placard. Prior to January 1, only licensed physicians were able to certify a disability for issuance of a disabled person parking placard.

To easily access the entire 2007 California Vehicle Code and the DMV driver handbook, log on to the DMV web site at www.dmv.ca.gov and click on the "Publications" button in the upper left hand corner of the home page.

Monthly Crime Summary: January 2007

Cerritos Station logged 101 Part I felony investigations in January 2007, compared to 107 in December. Decreases were noted in robberies, residential burglaries and vehicle burglaries. At the end of January, deputies were handling a weekly average of 316 calls for service.

Robberies

There were eight robberies investigated by Cerritos deputies in January, compared to 14 cases in December.

On Wednesday, January 3 at 7:50 p.m. a man entering his vehicle in the 13200 block of South Street was robbed by a male holding a handgun.

At 8:23 p.m. that same night, a gun-wielding male suspect entered a fast food restaurant in the 17200 block of Norwalk Boulevard and robbed the cashier.

On Saturday, January 13 at 12:30 a.m. four male juveniles accosted two other juveniles in a lot at the Towne Center. The suspects were quickly detained and arrested by deputies.

On Tuesday, January 23 at 11:22 a.m. a female victim was making a withdrawal from an ATM in the 13300 block of South Street when a male teenage suspect grabbed her checkbook containing the cash and fled on foot.

On Wednesday, January 24 at

11:50 p.m. a male suspect carjacked a victim's vehicle at gunpoint in a lot near South Street and Carmenita Road.

A shoplifting incident occurred on Thursday, January 25 at 4:25 p.m. in the lot of a store in the 20200 block of Bloomfield Avenue. The male suspect threatened to use a knife on loss prevention personnel but then dropped the merchandise and fled.

On Tuesday, January 30 at 7:40 a.m. a female victim was accosted by a male suspect in the 11800 block of Del Amo Boulevard where he demanded her vehicle. After telling him that she didn't have the keys, she grabbed the suspect and began screaming. The suspect struck her and fled.

The last case of the month occurred at 6:07 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31 when a male suspect entered a store in the 20200 block of Del Amo Boulevard and robbed a cashier at gunpoint.

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries dropped from 14 cases in December to 12 in January. Two of the incidents were attempts only. Three cases in January were attributed to open/unlocked doors or windows and six involved windows that were pried open. Property taken in these crimes included tools (from a home being remodeled), laptop computers, cash, jewelry, MP3 players, DVDs and a

camera. The 2007 weekly average in residential burglaries was three at the end of January.

Vehicle Burglaries

There were 30 vehicle burglaries reported in January, down from 45 in December. Commercial parking lots were the crime scenes in 26 cases. Fourteen involved SUVs, vans or pick-ups, and six victims reported stereo items stolen. Buses, trailers and a motor home were also targeted. Stolen property included clothing, CDs, purses, briefcases, credit cards, cash, sunglasses, MP3 players, GPS units, sleeping bags and fire extinguishers. The 2007 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is seven.

Vehicle Theft

Cerritos deputies investigated 36 vehicle thefts in January, and another two were attempted. Twenty-seven vehicle thefts occurred in December. Commercial parking lots were involved in 30 of the incidents. Fifteen SUVs, 11 Hondas and two Toyota products were among the vehicles stolen. A motorcycle was also taken. At the end of January, the 2007 weekly average for vehicle theft was eight.

Safeguard your garage door opener

In recent months there have been cases reported where suspects removed garage door openers from cars parked in driveways and activated them to gain access to the residences via the garage. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center would like to remind you that this is a common method used by burglars to gain entry into your home.

Keep your garage door remote on your person if possible, but at the very least, make sure it is locked in the glovebox or otherwise well concealed if left inside the car. An accessible garage door opening leads to an accessible residence.

How to spot and report drunk drivers

The following signs can help you detect an impaired driver on the road:

- Turning abruptly, illegally or with a wide radius
- Almost striking an object or another vehicle
- Weaving, zigzagging or drifting across the road or driving into opposing or crossing traffic
- Driving on surfaces other than a designated roadway
- Swerving or abruptly turning away from a generally straight course or straddling the center median

- Driving slower than 10 mph below the speed limit or without headlights on
- Stopping without cause in a traffic lane or braking erratically
- Following other cars too closely
- Slow response to traffic signals, or signaling that is inconsistent with driving actions

If you see a drunk driver, call 911 if on the freeway or the seven-digit number of your local law enforcement agency and tell them you wish to report a drunk driver.

Safety Contacts:
Community Safety Division -
(562) 916-1266
Sheriff's Station - (562) 860-0044



To join Cerritos Neighborhood
Watch, call Management
Analyst Mike Yach
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