

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

from the City of Berkeley Police Department

CASES OF INTEREST:

- Can I Borrow Your Cell Phone?
- Be On the Look-out for Suspicious People
- What to Do When Someone Unexpected Knocks
- Burglary Update
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Stabbing Suspect Arrested
- Bank Robber Nabbed
- Commercial Burglaries
- Who is this Suspect
- Notes From Night Patrol
- Contact Info



2013 Year, Issue 2

February 8, 2013

A law enforcement agency cannot function without the public's trust and confidence. Since 1905 the Berkeley Police Department has worked hard to earn that trust

The priorities of the Berkeley Police Department are to reduce crime, provide respectful public service, and be an open, accountable and highly ethical organization.

To that end, we strive to adhere to best practices, follow national standards and use data and information to make informed decisions. We will continue to make every effort to maintain your trust and confidence.

Communities participating and taking ownership of neighborhood issues are key to safe and vital communities. The Berkeley Police Department is committed to working with our community, in concert with many other Berkeley City Departments and outside organizations, to provide the best possible service to the people of Berkeley.

—Thank you for your continued interest and we hope you enjoy the newsletter.



Chief of Police
Michael Meehan

EXECUTIVE STAFF



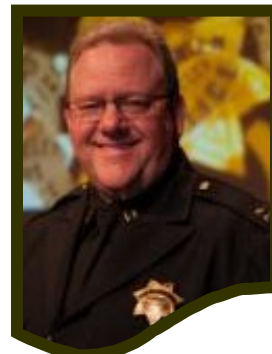
Professional Standards
Captain Harris



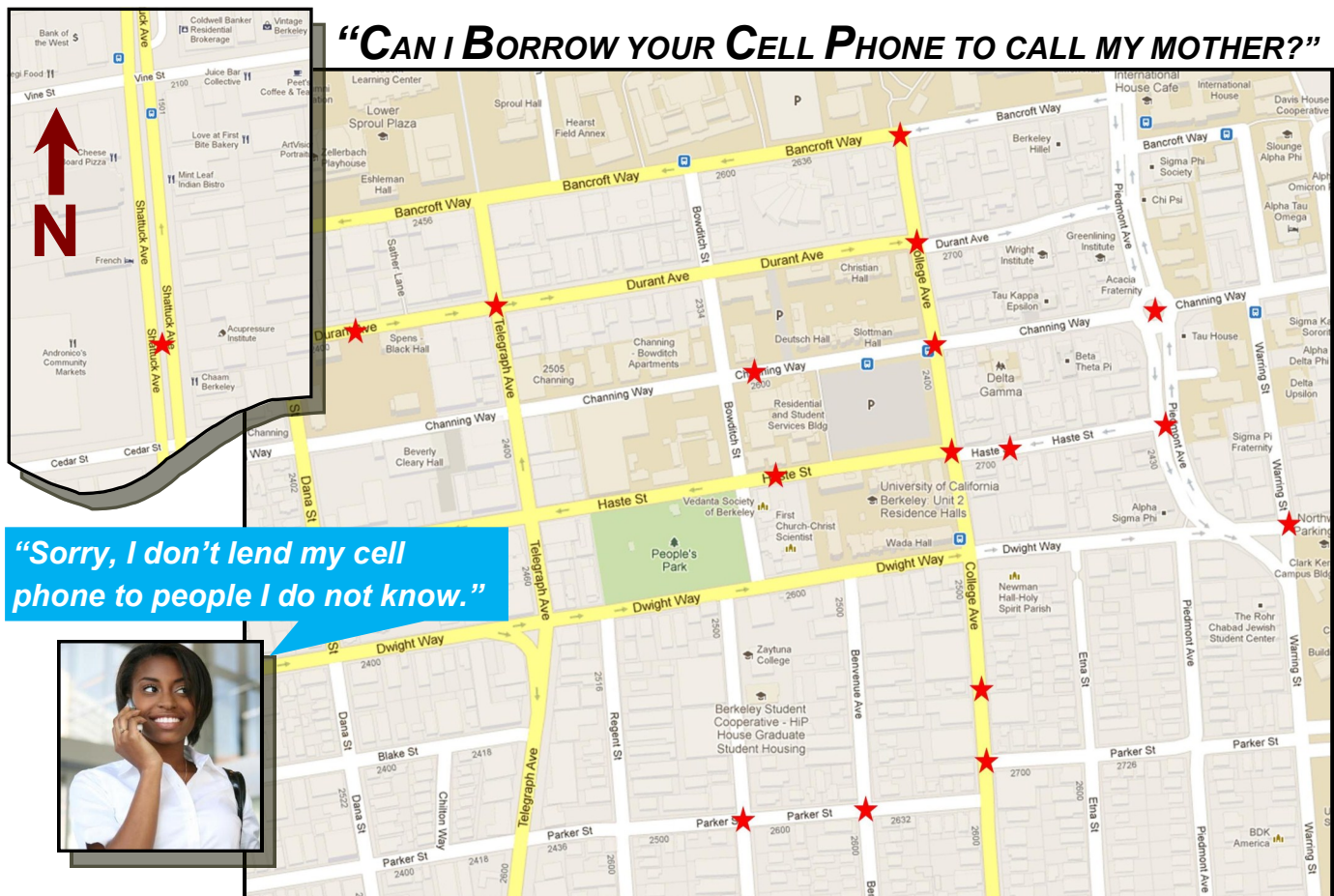
Business Manager
PSBM Ohlson



Operations
Captain Upson



Investigations
Captain Greenwood



Since December, the Berkeley Police Department has noticed a pattern of cell phone thefts through the use of a ruse. In the majority of the cases, **the suspects are taking advantage of people's willingness to help others.** As a ruse, the suspect(s) will ask to use a victim's cell phone—usually claiming the need to contact a sick family member. Once the suspect has the cell phone, the suspect(s) drive off in a vehicle—stealing the phone.

BPD would like to remind and encourage people to employ a few crime prevention measures that can help reduce your risk as well as discourage those who commit these types of crimes.

- **Do Not talk on cell phones** or listen to iPods when alone outside as they significantly limit awareness.
- **Do Not lend your phone** to anyone you do not know or take it out of your purse, pocket or bag to give someone the time, if asked. If you must, keep possession of your phone and place the call for them.
- **Do walk with purpose:** Project an assertive image that conveys you know where you are going.
- **Do avoid isolation:** Avoid uninhabited parks, parking lots, garages, and alleyways; stick to well-lit, high-traffic areas.
- **Do keep a safe distance:** Do not let people get too close, even if they appear to have a reason, such as asking for the time.
- **Always trust your instincts:** Trusting your own instincts that a situation seems “wrong” can be the best personal safety tool you have.

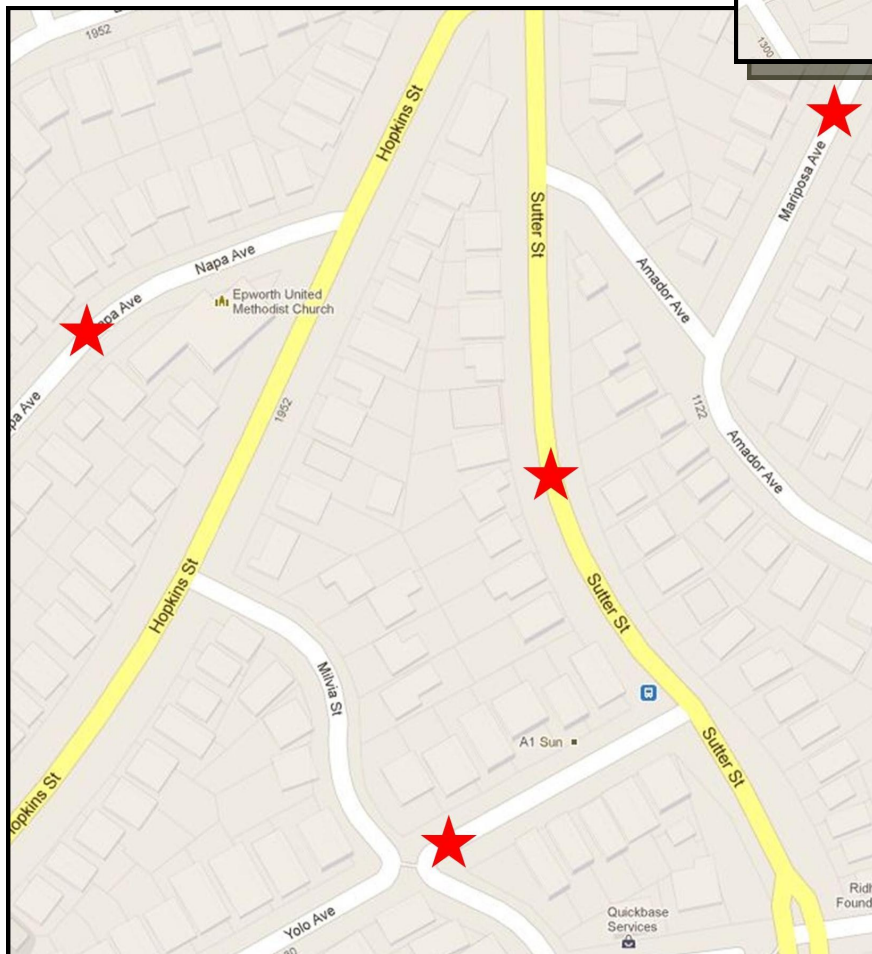
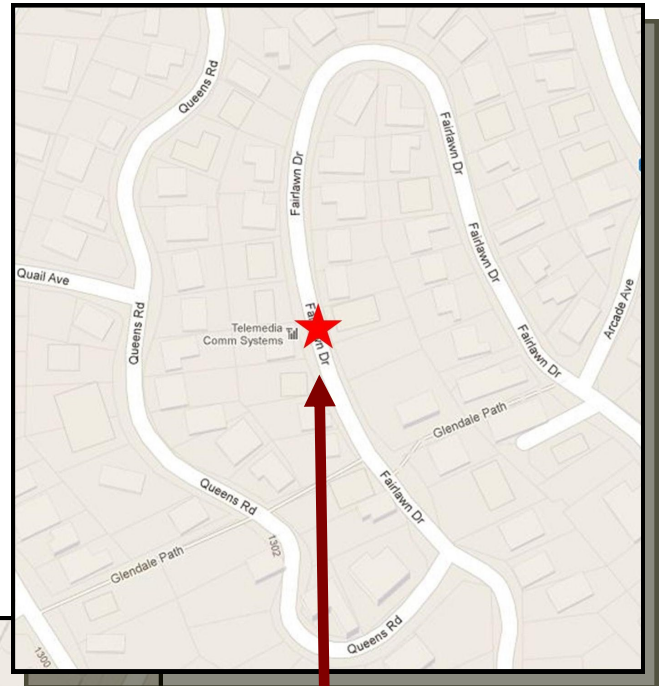
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE

On **Friday, January 25, 2013**, there were four reported incidents within the Sutter/Hopkins neighborhood occurring within a four hour period—three of which were burglaries. The suspect described in the incidents was similar to a suspicious person reported to BPD on January 11, 2013 on Fairlawn Drive (see below photograph taken by a witness resident).



The suspect in the majority of these incidents has been described as **African American male, 20-25 years old, well-dressed, and asking for a friend.**

If you have a similar occurrence in your neighborhood, please report it to BPD immediately.



On 1-11-13, the above man was photographed while walking away on Fairlawn Drive—after knocking on a door and asking for a friend.

WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE UNEXPECTED KNOCKS AT YOUR DOOR...



Acknowledge

Verbally answer the door first, DO NOT automatically open it—acknowledge that someone is home and aware of what is going on in/around the house.



Verify

- If the person claims to be the police, ask to see their identification if you cannot already see their uniform. If you are unsure, you can always call our dispatch center (981-5900) to confirm.
- If the unexpected person claims to be a utility service provider (PG&E, etc.) , ask them to show you their company issued identification.
- If the unexpected person claims to be a solicitor, ask them to show you their solicitors permit and business license.

Take Action!

In the event the person does not appear to be there legitimately, please **call BPD immediately to report the suspicious person.** Remember, if the suspicious person is a problem for you, they will probably be a problem for your neighbors as well.

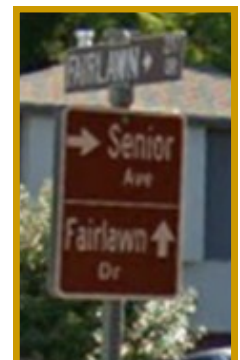
SITUATION UPDATE



On Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at about 3:15 pm, a resident on Senior Avenue returned home from walking his dog to discover three suspects burglarizing his home. When the suspects fled to a waiting car, the victim ran up to the window in an attempt to stop them. The driver of the suspect vehicle then backed out of the driveway in the direction of the resident—running over the foot of the resident (BPD 12-68417).

Update:

After many hours of investigation, BPD's Property Crimes detectives determined the identities of the suspects responsible for the burglary on Senior Avenue. On January 31, 2013, detectives made the trip to arrest the three (3) suspects after developing information that the suspects were located in the City of West Sacramento.



NEW: CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

CIT is an innovative, police-based, crisis intervention & pre-booking jail diversion program with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships.

Berkeley Police Officers selected for the Crisis Intervention Team participate in a 38-hr class hosted by the Oakland Police Department in collaboration with Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. In this intensive, week long course, officers learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, appropriate medications and their side effects, use of verbal de-escalation techniques, and active listening skills.



On Jan. 20th, the Berkeley Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program became operational. Under the new teams policy, a CIT Officer will automatically be dispatched to the following calls:



- Calls involving suicidal subjects,
- Calls involving violent mentally ill subjects,
- Incidents involving suspected mentally ill subjects with a weapon, and/or
- Situations involving Barricaded subjects and/or Hostage—until relieved by the Barricaded Subject Hostage Negotiation Team.

For more information about BPD's Crisis Intervention Team, you can contact the department's CIT Coordinator—[Officer Jeff Shannon](#) (510) 981-5779.



ALAMEDA COUNTY REGIONAL AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE DATA

YEAR -TO- DATE COMPARISON BY AGENCY

Agency	Stolen 2012	Stolen 2011	% Change
Alameda Co SO	1,002	806	24%
Alameda PD	274	271	1%
Albany PD	72	48	50%
BART PD	426	359	19%
Berkeley PD	656	659	0%
CHP Dublin	26	12	117%
CHP Hayward	28	11	155%
CHP Oakland	255	221	15%
CSU East Bay PD	1	2	-50%
E Bay Reg. Parks	16	10	60%
Emeryville PD	161	114	41%
Fremont PD	575	453	27%
Hayward PD	1,446	1,140	27%
Livermore PD	182	133	37%
Newark PD	156	121	29%
Oakland PD	6,000	5,351	12%
Piedmont PD	50	48	4%
Pleasanton PD	140	95	47%
San Leandro PD	746	587	27%
UC Berkeley PD	15	21	-29%
Union City PD	307	263	17%
COUNTYWIDE	12,622	10,796	17%
STATEWIDE	174,457	156,796	11%



According to the Alameda County Regional Auto Theft Task force ([ACRATT](#)), auto theft has [risen 17%](#) throughout the county **except in the City of Berkeley**.



BANK ROBBER NABBED

On January 16, 2013 at about 9:30 am, a lone suspect robbed Mechanic's Bank (1801 Solano Avenue) at gunpoint.

A subsequent investigation into the robbery by detectives led to the discovery of the suspect's identity—for which an arrest warrant was issued.

On January 22, 2013, the suspect was arrested for his outstanding warrant after being detained in the State of Missouri for a traffic violation.

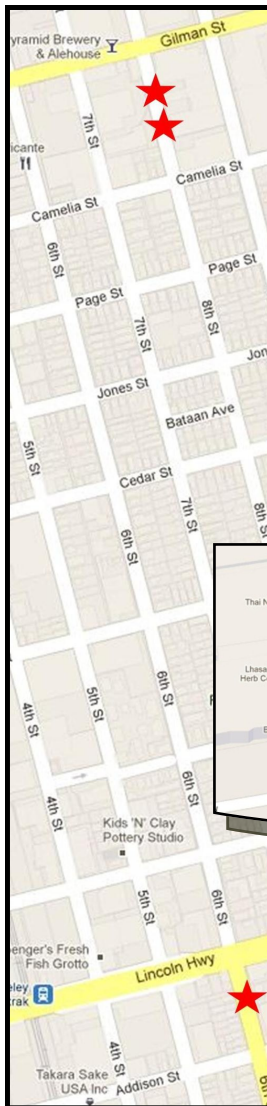


STABBING SUSPECT ARRESTED

On January 29, 2013, at about 4 pm, the Berkeley Police Department responded to the 1400 block of Harmon Street on a report of a stabbing.

Upon arrival, officers discovered two stabbing victims outside of the residence and learned that the stabbing suspect had barricaded himself inside the residence. As several other officers responded to the scene to surround the building, the suspect set the home on fire. When the suspect leaned out of a window to escape the flames from the burning building, officers were able to take him into police custody without further incident.

The suspect was subsequently arrested for attempted murder, setting fire to the building, as well as several other serious crimes (BPD Case #13-5570).



BPD NEEDS YOUR HELP

During the early morning hours of January 11, 2013, four businesses were burglarized during a two hour period:



- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • Black Pine School | 2015 Sixth Street | Case #13-1855 |
| • Laura Guido Clark Design | 1321 Eighth Street | Case #13-1859 |
| • Sugar Pill Cosmetics | 1331 Eighth Street | Case #13-1859 |
| • Blow Salon | 2112 Berkeley Way | Case #13-1856 |

If you have any information about the above burglaries, please contact BPD's Property Crimes Unit at (510) 981-5737.



PLANNING THAT UPCOMING VACATION?



One important item on your preparation list should be to fill out a [Vacation Watch Form](#). The form asks for emergency contact information, a description of vehicles that will be parked at the residence, descriptions of maintenance work that will be done while you are on vacation, and the names of people that will be checking the property while you and your family are away.

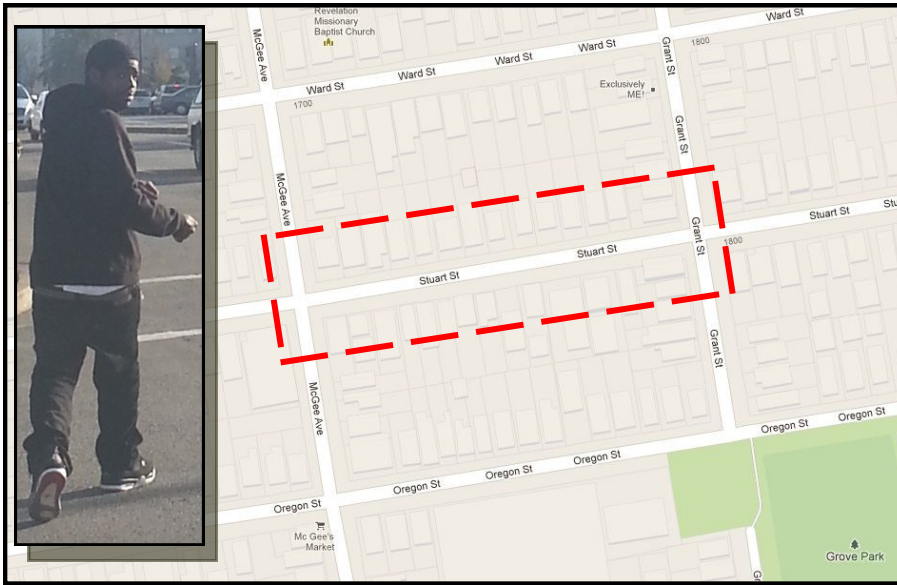
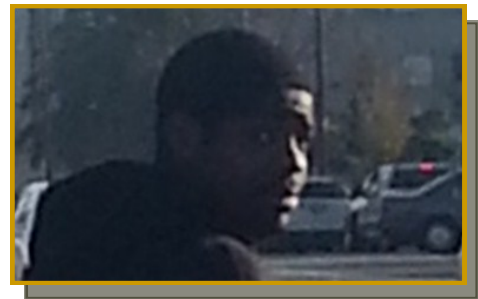
After we receive your completed form, it is distributed to the patrol officers that patrol your neighborhood. Although this is not a guarantee that your home will not be damaged or burglarized, it gives you some added protection. If any sign of forced entry or unexpected change occurs, the police officer will refer to the information provided and notify the emergency contacts listed.

We also encourage you to make arrangements with a family member, friend, or neighbor to also check on your home while you are away. In addition, we recommend that you have your daily mail and newspaper deliveries stopped while you are away. Try to create the illusion that you are at home by getting timers that will turn lights on and off—lights burning 24 hours a day can signal an empty house.

After downloading/obtaining the form, residents can submit the [Vacation Watch Form](#) to us by mail, fax, or dropping it off at our front counter/Records Unit.

Berkeley Police Department Records Unit **(Hours: Mon–Fri 8 am–3 pm)**
 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA, 94704
 (510) 981-5750—Front Counter
 (510) 981-5819—Fax

WHO IS THIS SUSPECT?

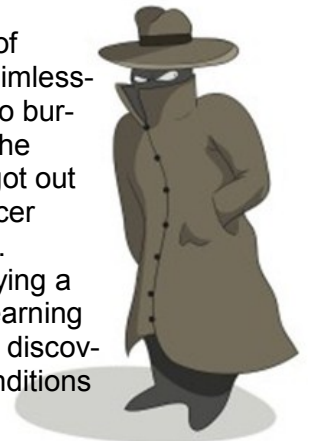


On **January 31, 2013**, a resident of the 1700 block of Stuart Street had their cell phone stolen from inside their home. After texting their stolen phone, the residents were able to purchase their stolen phone back. Above is a photograph of the man who sold the phone back to the residents (BPD #13-5997).

If you know who this suspect is, please contact **BPD Property Crimes Unit at (510) 981-5737**.

NOTES FROM NIGHT PATROL

On **January 18, 2013** at about 4 am, **Officer J.Kelly #1** was on patrol of the City of Berkeley's downtown area. Officer Kelly noticed a man walking around the area aimlessly (not appearing to have a destination). As there has been a concentration of auto burglaries in the Downtown area recently, Officer Kelly decided to continue to watch the man. Officer Kelly, now on the same block the man was walking on, parked and got out of his vehicle. Noticing that Officer was watching him, the man walked over to Officer Kelly. When the man approached, Officer Kelly asked the man what he was doing. The man responded, **"I'm just walking around."** Noticing that the man was carrying a backpack and wearing gloves, Officer Kelly continued the conversation—further learning that the man was on probation for burglary. After searching the man, Officer Kelly discovered he was carrying burglary tools and was in violation of his court-mandated conditions of probation (BPD 13-3178).



On **January 23, 2013** at about 2:30 am, **Officer Morillas #36** was patrolling the area near Alta Bates hospital in response to a reported auto burglary that had just occurred in the area. While driving the area, Officer Morillas spotted a man who matched the description of the reported auto burglary suspect walking on the 500 block of Alcatraz Ave. After detaining the man, Officer Morillas noticed that the man was sweating and had blood on his hands. When he searched the man and his backpack, Officer Morillas discovered several laptops as well as some other personal electronic devices. Subsequent investigation into the man and the belongings he was carrying revealed that the items were stolen earlier from two separate vehicles (BPD 13-4142 & 13-4141).

CITY OF BERKELEY CONTACTS

Animal Control	(510) 981-6600	animalservices@cityofberkeley.info
Berkeley Housing Authority	(510) 981-5470	bha@cityofberkeley.info
Code Enforcement	(510) 981-2489	codeenforcement@ci.berkeley.ca.us
Housing Code Enforcement	(510) 981-5444	housing@ci.berkeley.ca.us
Neighborhood Services	(510) 981-7000	manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us

COMMUNITY POLICE CONTACTS

Homicide	(510) 981-5741	Property Crimes	(510) 981-5737
Robbery	(510) 981-5742	Sex Crimes	(510) 981-5735
Domestic Violence	(510) 981-5736	Youth Services	(510) 981-5715
Internal Affairs	(510) 981-5706	Special Enforcement Bureau	(510) 981-5818
Property Room	(510) 981-5725	Records/PRA Requests	(510) 981-5750
Parking Enforcement	(510) 981-5890	Traffic Enforcement	(510) 981-5980

BPD Public Information Officer:

Officer Jennifer Coats #151 (510) 981-5780 JCoats@ci.berkeley.ca.us

BPD Area Coordinators:

Area 1—Officer Byron White #17 (510) 981-5773 BWhite@ci.berkeley.ca.us
 Area 2—Officer Jessyca Nabozny #118 (510) 981-5778 JNabozny@ci.berkeley.ca.us
 Area 3—Officer Stephanie Polizziani #31 (510) 981-5772 SPolizziani@ci.berkeley.ca.us
 Area 4—TBD *******Contact Sergeant Fomby #S-7*******

BPD Neighborhood Watch Scheduler:

Jane Ortega (510) 981-5805 JOrtega@ci.berkeley.ca.us

BPD Special Events Coordinator:

Sergeant Fomby #S-7 (510) 981-5821 SFomby@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Partners:

University of California Police Department (510) 642-6760
 BART Crime Prevention Unit (510) 464-7052

DOWNLOADABLE INFORMATION & FORMS

- [Area Command Map](#)
- [Patrol Beat Map](#)
- [Neighborhood Watch Packet](#)
- [Vacation Watch Forms](#)
- ["No Trespassing" Letter](#)
- ["No Trespassing" Sign](#)



Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
[City of Berkeley Online Service Center](#)

BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2100 ML King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA, 94704

Phone: 510-981-5806
Fax: 510-981-5819
police@ci.berkeley.ca.us

YOU DON'T HAVE TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY TO HELP SOLVE VIOLENT CRIMES.

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www.BayAreaCrimeStoppers.org

Report

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[Mail Theft/Tampering](#)

[Mailbox Vandalism](#)

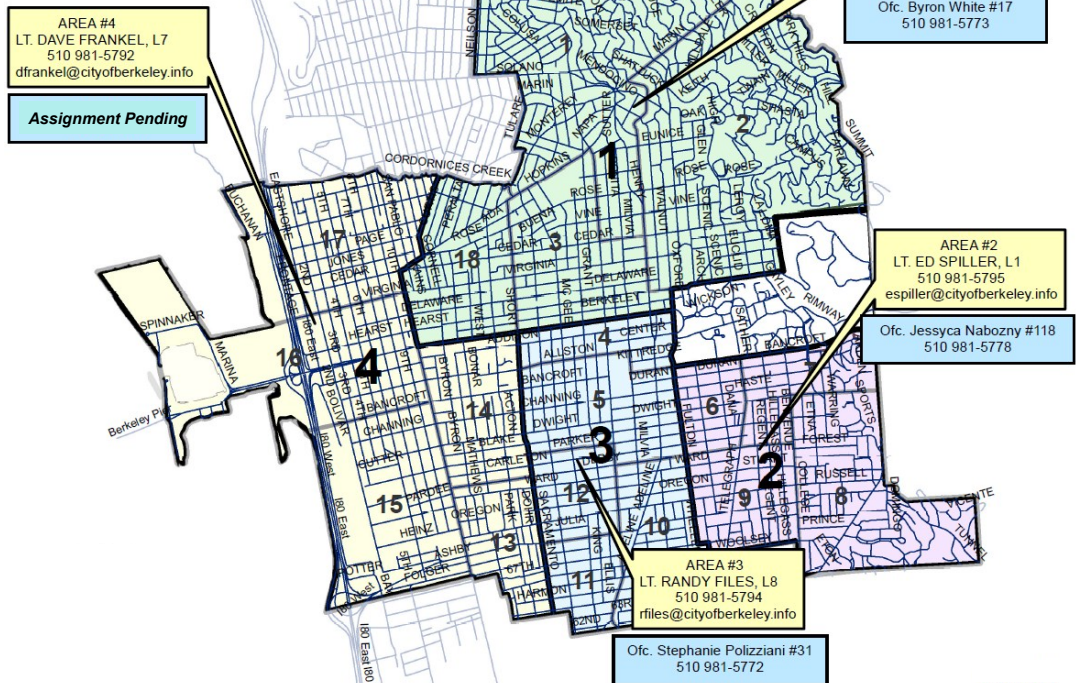
[Mail Fraud](#)

[False Change of Address](#)



Crime, Respect, and Accountability

CITY OF BERKELEY COMMUNITY AREA COMMANDERS



Neighborhood Update is an occasional Berkeley Police Department (BPD) Newsletter focusing on **crime trends** and **significant events** occurring throughout the city.

To get a complete view of crimes happening in your neighborhood, visit BPD's Community Crime View web page—(<http://berkeley.ca.crimeviewcommunity.com/default.aspx>) or Crimemapping.com (<http://www.crimemapping.com/>).

If you wish to receive this newsletter directly, please send an Email to—police@ci.berkeley.ca.us.

EMERGENCIES 911 (Program 510-981-5911 for your cell phone)

To report Non-Emergencies and to make police reports, call (510) 981-5900.

BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ONLINE CRIME REPORTING SYSTEM

<http://www.cityofberkeley.info/onlinepolice/report/>

You can use the system so long as:

- it is a non-emergency matter;
- There are **NO** known witnesses or suspects;
- The incident occurred within the Berkeley city limits, but not on University of California property or on a freeway;
- You have an email address.