

# NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

from the City of Berkeley Police Department

2013 Year, Issue 1

January 4, 2013

## CASES OF INTEREST:

- Berkeley PD Needs Your Help
- Cell Phone Safety
- Keeping Your Home Secure
- Protecting Your Business
- Help Prevent Mail Theft
- The Importance of Reporting Crime
- South Campus Thefts
- Notes from Patrol
- New Laws for 2013
- Contact Info



## CITY OF BERKELEY COMMUNITY AREA COMMANDERS

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March 2012

## CHANGING TIMES

*As you know, the Berkeley Police Department partitioned the City of Berkeley into four (4) patrol coverage areas—each having an Area Commander, Area Coordinator, and patrol officers assigned to it. To insure consistent transparency about activities within the patrol coverage areas, each area's Area Coordinator would periodically distribute newsletters/messages to the community.*

*In order to insure a consistent message between the Berkeley Police Department's four areas, we created this newsletter with a unified format to include all areas of the City of Berkeley.*

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



## BERKELEY PD NEEDS YOUR HELP

On Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at about 11:36 p.m., the Berkeley Police Department responded to the 2700 block of Sacramento Street, and found Pamula Mullins, 50, of Berkeley, deceased from a gunshot wound.

BPD is urging anyone who may know anything about this homicide to please call the **Homicide Detail at (510) 981-5741** or the department's non-emergency number—(510) 981-5900. Callers may remain anonymous.



The City of Berkeley is offering a **\$15,000** reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) responsible for the homicide. The City of Berkeley is a member of the [Bay Area Crime Stoppers \(BACS\) organization](#); Callers with information may call BACS at (800)-222-TIPS (8477). BACS offers an additional reward of up to **\$2,000** for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case.

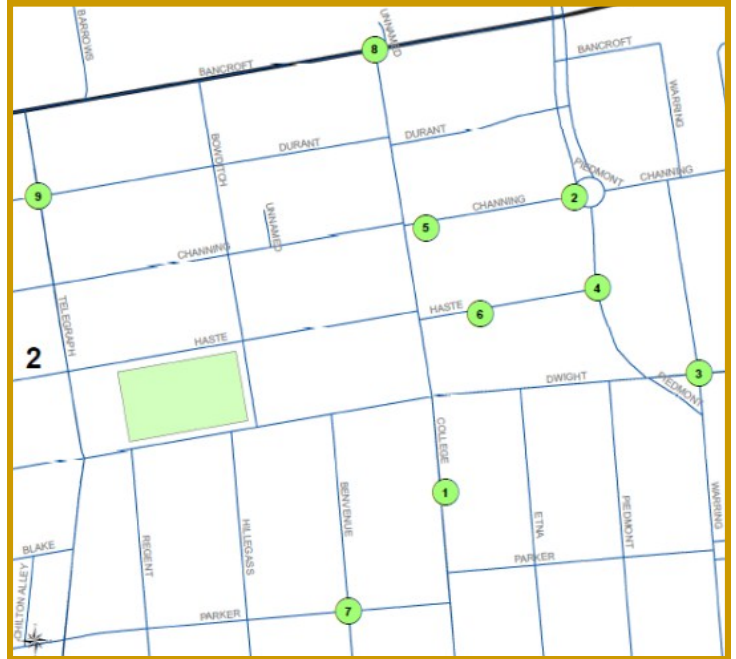


## CELL PHONE SAFETY

The Berkeley Police Department is currently investigating several reports of cell phone thefts through the use of a ruse. 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.
- **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.



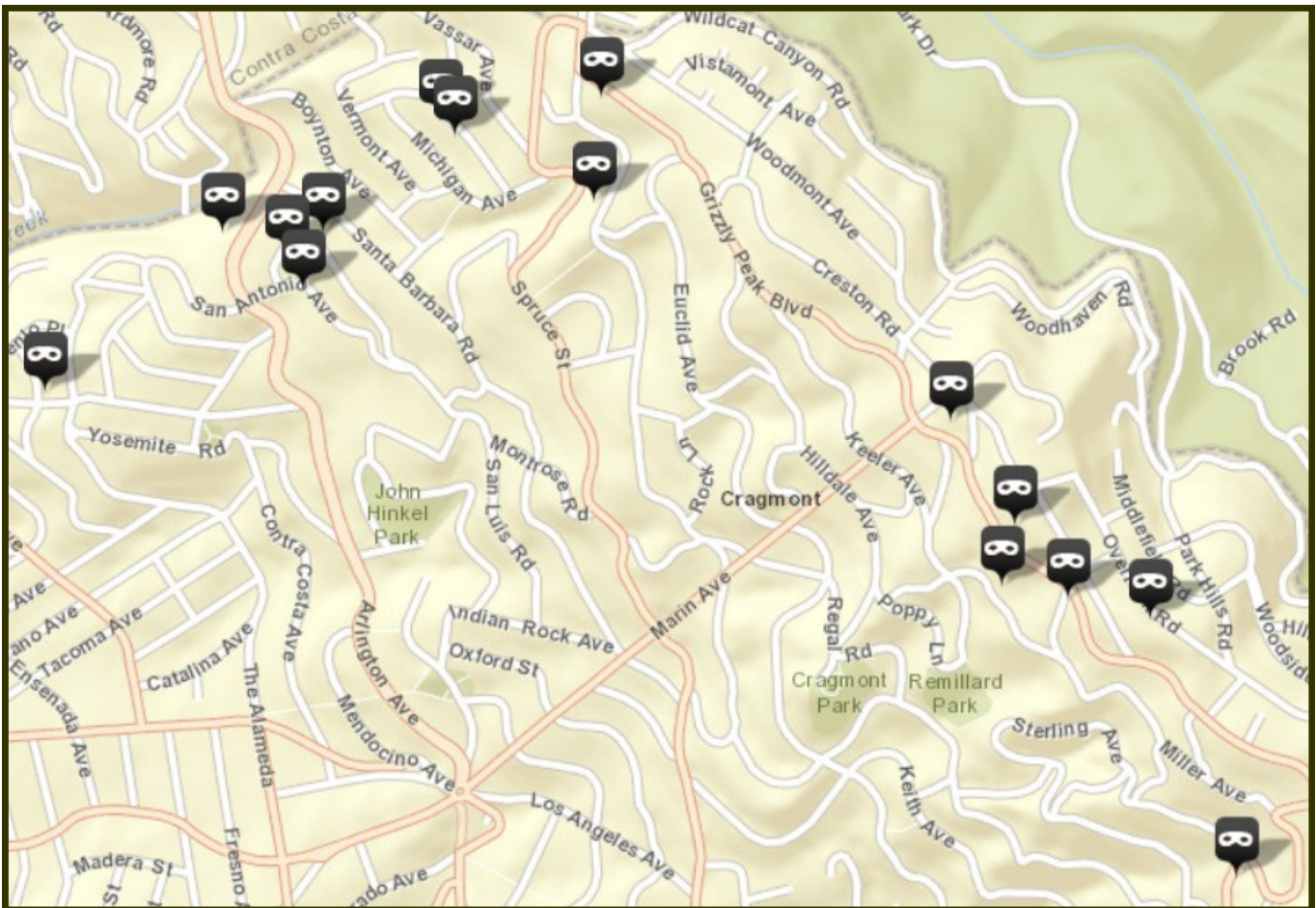
## FALLING BRANCHES

During this winter season, please be aware of branches falling from trees—especially during inclement weather. We certainly will!



To report fallen trees or branches, simply dial

**311.**



## KEEPING YOUR HOME SECURE

### Make sure you secure all of your doors and windows

Over half of the burglaries that get reported involve an unlocked door or window.

### Consider photographing and recording the serial numbers of your valuable items.

### Increase Natural Surveillance

Make certain the lighting at entryways are lit from dusk to dawn. Criminals do not want to be exposed. Do not let criminals have a place to hide in the darkness.



### Territorial Reinforcement

Make it clear in your neighborhood that the community is watching through signs, notices, and postings. ***Crimes happen when you have a motivated offender, a suitable victim, and there is no one to watch what is going on.***

### Maintenance

Keeping up properties, cleaning off graffiti, etc. are all ways a potential criminal will know that people in the community are watching/caring about the neighborhood.

### Create a Security Plan for your household

Have a family sit-down to discuss how your family plans to keep your residence secured. Decide which persons have the responsibilities to do what—such as locking doors, windows, setting the alarm, etc.

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IT'S RAINY  
SEASON AGAIN!



Just a friendly reminder. During times of inclement weather, please be sure to drive with your headlights on. It's not only the law, but it helps you see others and others see you!

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## KEEPING YOUR HOME SECURE CONTINUED

### **Two Incidents that residents are Talking about:**

**On Tuesday (12-11-2012)** at about 3:15 pm, a resident of 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).



**On Sunday (12-16-2012)** at about 2:30 pm, a resident returned to their home on Fairlawn Drive to discover two suspects standing on her front stairs—looking through the front windows. When the resident parked in front of the residence, the suspects approached the resident—explaining that they were looking for someone. When the resident told suspects she was going to call the police, the suspects walked away—toward their vehicle. When the resident walked around to see the license plates of the vehicle, the suspects robbed the resident—striking the resident in the head and taking the resident's personal belongings (BPD 12-69458).



In addition to the above mentioned incidents, the Berkeley Police Department is currently tracking a pattern/trend of residential burglaries in the North Berkeley Hills that have happened since the aforementioned incidents (see attached map). If you have any information regarding these incidents, please contact **BPD's Property Crimes Unit—(510) 981-5737**.

## PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS

This winter, the Berkeley Police Department has noticed a pattern of commercial burglaries in West Berkeley where suspect(s) are stealing money from cash registers during the overnight hours when the businesses are closed. The Berkeley Police Department is recommending that businesses that use cash registers take the following steps when they close for the day:

- Empty all cash registers.
- Display the empty cash drawer(s) and make them visible from outside of front windows.



We believe that by taking these simple steps, would-be-burglars will be less likely to break into these businesses.

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## HELP PREVENT MAIL THEFT

Here are some tips from the [US Postal Inspection Service](#) on what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you are expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items. If you will not be home when the items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- Have your local post office hold your mail while you are on vacation, or absent from your home for a long period of time.
- If you do not receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your post office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Always deposit your mail in a mail slot at your local post office, or hand it to your letter carrier.
- Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. If you observe a mail thief at work, call the local police immediately, and then call the **U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455**.
- You may also want to consider purchasing a locking mailbox.

**Click Below to  
Report Mail Crime!**

[Mail Theft/Tampering](#)

[Mailbox Vandalism](#)

[Mail Fraud](#)

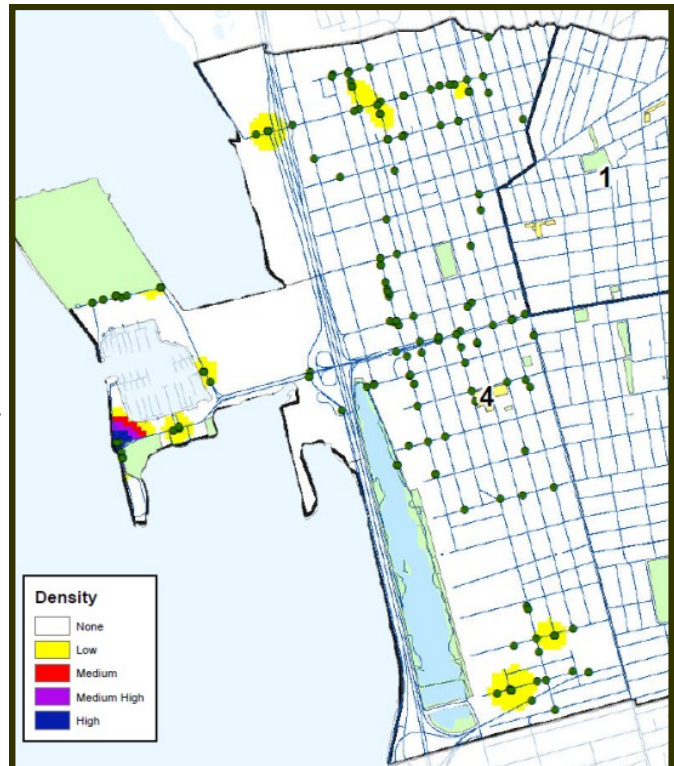
[False Change of Address](#)



## THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING CRIME

On a weekly basis, strategists from BPD's Operations and Investigative Divisions meet with the Department's Crime Analysts to discuss crime incidents that have occurred throughout the city. As crime patterns are identified, strategies are discussed and then directed for implementation.

For some time, auto burglary has been the most persistent crime challenge for the City of Berkeley—with the neighborhoods near Interstate 80 entrances/exits being the most frequently targeted area. While addressing this crime challenge over time, the department deployed both plain-clothed officers and uniformed officers to the area—with mixed results. Always looking for a new or better way to address crime, departmental strategists sought advice from other police agencies. After communicating with other police departments with freeways in their jurisdictions as well, Departmental strategists learned that auto burglaries near freeway entrances/exits are not just unique to Berkeley—they are happening all over the Bay Area.



Moving from communication to collaboration, the Berkeley Police Department formed a partnership of shared resources with our neighboring police agencies (Emeryville PD and Albany PD) this fall to prevent these auto burglaries.

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## SOUTH CAMPUS THEFTS

The Berkeley Police Department has noticed a steady pattern of thefts happening to unattended property in the south campus. Within the past month, there have been 61 thefts reported to the Berkeley Police Department. Most of the thefts reported involve thefts of lap-tops, I-phones, cell phones, and other small electronic devices.

Here are some helpful tips from the National Crime Prevention Council ([www.NCPC.org](http://www.NCPC.org)):



***Do not show off your property. Keep electronic devices hidden from view when not in use.***

***Do not leave property unattended.***

***Do not leave property with someone you don't know.***

***Do Leave valuables at home.***

***Always Keep all personal items with you and within your sight.***



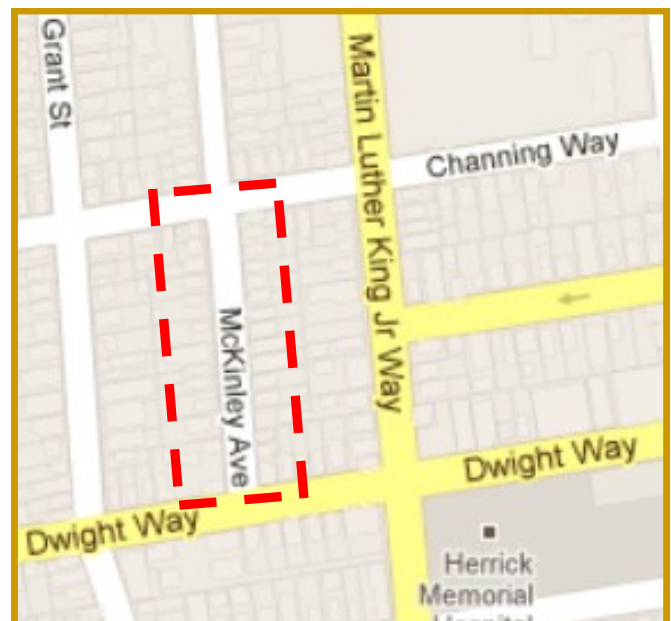
## NOTES FROM PATROL



On December 8, 2012 at about 11 pm, BPD Officer Syto #59 and UCPD Officer Wong #88 were patrolling together as part of a joint BPD-UCPD patrol--assigned to robbery suppression.

While monitoring the area, Officers Syto and Wong noticed a vehicle that appeared to be circling the area and was passing several open parking spaces in the area. Thinking this behavior was suspicious, Officer Syto and Officer Wong looked closer at the circling vehicle and saw that the vehicle appeared to be illegally equipped/modified. To investigate this further, Officer Syto and Officer Wong attempted to stop/detain the vehicle and its occupants.

As Officer Syto and Officer Wong maneuvered their vehicle into position to stop/detain the vehicle with its red lights and siren, the suspicious vehicle fled toward Downtown Berkeley. When Officer Syto and Officer Wong activated their vehicle's lights/siren for the suspicious vehicle to stop, the suspicious vehicle increased its speed—fleeing from the officers. Fleeing westbound on Channing Way, the suspicious vehicle drove over the Channing Way high center median at the intersection of MLK Jr. Way—damaging the undercarriage of the vehicle. Determined to get away from the police, the suspicious vehicle continued on. When the suspicious vehicle reached the 2400 block of McKinley Street, two men jumped out of the car and ran behind the houses on the block.



Several officers responded to the scene formed a perimeter around the neighborhood. During the search, both suspects were located in the neighborhood and subsequently arrested. When officers searched the suspects' abandoned vehicle and their escape path; **officers also located two Halloween masks (presumably used for robberies), weapons, as well as property taken during a previously reported (12-1-2012) robbery in the South Campus (BPD 12-66271).**







## NOTES FROM PATROL: CONTINUED

**Just after midnight on December 22, 2012**, Officer Salazar #81 and Officer Collier #75 were riding as a tandem patrol unit—patrolling the area near the Berkeley-Oakland border. While on patrol, Officers Salazar and Collier spotted a vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle reported as being involved in several burglaries and a robbery in Berkeley. When Officers Salazar and Collier attempted to stop the vehicle—the vehicle sped away from them at a high rate of speed.

**DEAD END ROAD  
NO  
TURN AROUND**

The suspect vehicle ended up driving into a dead end roadway near the 1200 block of 65<sup>th</sup> Street in Emeryville. Stuck at the dead-end, the driver ran from the vehicle—while the female passenger remained inside the vehicle. While fleeing on-foot, the driver discarded a weapon as pursuing officers chased after him. As other officers responded to the area to form a perimeter around the area, the fleeing driver hid from the officers in the block. Officers then searched the block with the assistance of an Emeryville PD K-9 Unit—where the driver was subsequently located and arrested nearby.

During the subsequent investigation, officers learned that the suspect vehicle had previously been reported stolen. Inside the stolen vehicle, officers located several items of stolen property as well as another weapon (BPD 12-70578).



## NOTE:

***BPD Detectives have been and are currently following-up on the stolen items located inside the stolen vehicle. Several of those stolen items recovered from the stolen vehicle have been linked to several burglaries in north Berkeley. As this investigation is on-going, the Berkeley Police Department cannot confirm if the person arrested in this incident is connected to the incidents on Senior Avenue or Fairlawn Drive.***



## California LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

### Most Notable 2013 Laws:

**CHP Silver Alerts**, [SB 1047](#)—Establishment of a new alert system (similar to Amber Alerts) for law enforcement to alert motorists of missing people—over the age of 65 and at risk.



**Electronic Proof of Insurance**, [AB 1708](#)—Requires law enforcement to accept proof of insurance on a driver's telephone or tablet.

### Other Noteworthy 2013 Laws:

[SB 1055](#)—Landlords cannot require tenants to pay rent online.

[SB 1229](#)—Landlords cannot force renters to have their cats declawed or dogs devocalized.

[SB 1388](#)—Drivers can park at broken parking meters for the time allotted for the space without the fear of a ticket (i.e. parking for thirty minutes at a broken meter with a 30-minute limit). Note: This does not apply to broken City of Berkeley pay-and-display stations (see [BMC 14.52.130](#)).



[AB 1844](#)—Employers can no longer ask workers or job applicants to disclose passwords to access personal social media accounts, such as Facebook or Twitter.

[AB 1955](#)—All CA State public university campuses must designate a liaison to work with students and campus police.

**[Complete list of new CA Bills enacted for 2013 year.](#)**    AB=Assembly Bill    SB=Senate Bill

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING CRIME CONTINUED

Recognizing the benefits of shared resources and staffing, departmental strategists are building on our pre-existing South Campus Safety Patrol collaboration with the University of California Police Department (UCPD)—now including a joint patrol for Robbery Suppression.

According to some Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, they frequently have encountered community members who are reluctant to report crime incidents—often because of time restraints, value of the item(s) taken/damaged, etc. To address the crime challenges of the future, it is imperative that police agencies have an accurate account of the crime incidents that are happening so that we can appropriately address them.

In the event you have a crime to report where you do not have a suspect description and do not wish to directly report the crime to a police officer, please consider reporting the crime via BPD's [Online Report System](#) (located on the department's website). The system is available 24-hours a day and will send you a case/police report number via your Email—thus allowing you to report the crime incident at your convenience and allowing the Berkeley Police Department to adequately address crime incidents happening in your neighborhood.



## CITY OF BERKELEY CONTACTS

Animal Control	(510) 981-6600	<a href="mailto:animalservices@cityofberkeley.info">animalservices@cityofberkeley.info</a>
Berkeley Housing Authority	(510) 981-5470	<a href="mailto:bha@cityofberkeley.info">bha@cityofberkeley.info</a>
Code Enforcement	(510) 981-2489	<a href="mailto:codeenforcement@ci.berkeley.ca.us">codeenforcement@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a>
Housing Code Enforcement	(510) 981-5444	<a href="mailto:housing@ci.berkeley.ca.us">housing@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a>
Neighborhood Services	(510) 981-7000	<a href="mailto:manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us">manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a>

## 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	(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](mailto:JCoats@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### BPD Area Coordinators:

Area 1—Officer Byron White #17 (510) 981-5773 [BWhite@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:BWhite@ci.berkeley.ca.us)  
 Area 2—Officer Jessyca Nabozny #118 (510) 981-5778 [JNabozny@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:JNabozny@ci.berkeley.ca.us)  
 Area 3—Officer Stephanie Polizziani #31 (510) 981-5772 [SPolizziani@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto: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](mailto:JOrtega@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### BPD Special Events Coordinator:

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

### Partners:

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

## DOWNLOADABLE INFORMATION/FORMS

- [Beat Officer Line-Up \(6/24/12 to 1/12/12\)](#)
- [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

**CrimeMapping.com**

*Building Safer Communities!*

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

**REWARDS UP TO \$2,000.**

Call **800-222-TIPS** (8477)  
or Text **BAYTIP** plus your info  
to **CRIMES** (274637)

**All calls confidential.**

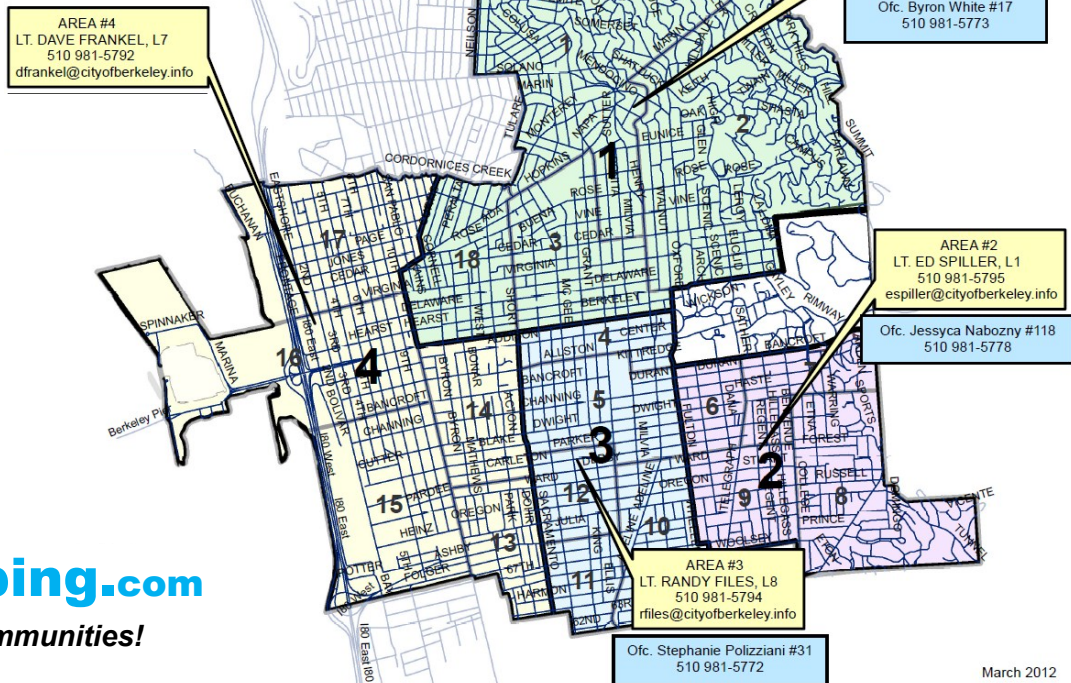
Crime doesn't pay. Crime Stoppers does.

**BAY AREA  
CRIME  
STOPPERS** www.BayAreaCrimeStoppers.org



## Crime, Respect, and Accountability

### CITY OF BERKELEY COMMUNITY AREA COMMANDERS



March 2012

*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](mailto: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/onlinepolicereport/>

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.