BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

from the City of Berkeley Police Department

CASES OF INTEREST:

- Thwarted String of Robberies
- Gunshots Heard Harmon/California
- No Escape for Cell Phone Thief
- Clerk arrested for Buying Stolen phones
- Crime Analysis: Street Robbery
- Did you Know?
- Van Thefts
- Who are these People?
- South Campus Robbery
- Contact Info

BERKELEY

2013 Year, Issue 5

May 7, 2013

THWARTED STRING OF ROBBERIES

On **April 4**th at about 7 pm, the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) received a call regarding a suspect who had approached a woman while she unloaded her car on the 1000 block of Sierra Street. When the woman saw the suspect point a weapon at her, she ran away to a neighbor's house and called BPD. Witnesses described the suspect as a teenage male—fleeing in a white vehicle (BPD Case #13-18276).

Moments later, BPD received a similar call where a suspect approached a woman walking on Lincoln Street (near California Street). The suspect reportedly pulled out a weapon and demanded her iPhone. Witnesses again described the suspect as fleeing in a white vehicle (BPD #13-18278).

A few minutes later, BPD received a 3rd call where a suspect attempted to rob a woman while she was walking on Carlotta Avenue (BPD #13-18277).

Hearing the police radio broadcasts, several North-end officers responded to the area of the robberies to search for the suspects. Patrolling the other side of town on the Berkeley-Oakland border, Officer Alan Roberds #53, who was patrolling the other side of town on the Berkeley-Oakland border, also

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THWARTED STRING OF ROBBERIES CONT'D

heard the Berkeley Police radio broadcasts. When he heard the broadcasts, Officer Roberds remembered hearing Oakland PD broadcast* a robbery about an hour prior—where a similar suspect vehicle was described fleeing the Broadway/College Avenue neighborhood (the witnesses remembered the suspect vehicle's license plate). Officer Roberds immediately contacted BPD Dispatch to ask OPD for the license plate. The information was subsequently broadcast to all BPD patrol officers.



Immediately following the suspect vehicle broadcast, **Sergeant Cesar Melero #S-4** spotted the vehicle driving on Ninth Street (near Camelia Street). With the assistance of several other officers, Sergeant Melero was able to stop the vehicle on the 1600 block of Ninth Street.

After being arrested for the robberies, the two teenage suspects were transported to the Berkeley Police Department and interviewed by **Robbery Detective Frank Landrum #158**. After speaking witnesses, several other police agencies, as well as the suspects, Detective Landrum was able to determine that the suspects were involved in several robberies in other cities as well.

*BPD south-end patrol vehicles are equipped with OPD radios.

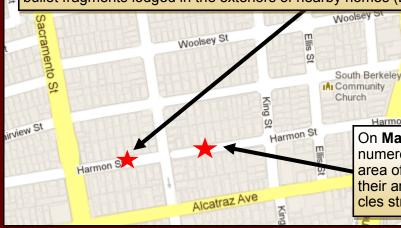
VERDICT REACHED FROM 2009 HOMICIDE



On April 29th, the <u>District Attorney's Office announced</u> the conviction of four defendants in the 2009 shooting Homicide of Charles Davis. After the shooting homicide, the four defendants led BPD in a pursuit—culminating in a collision in the City of Oakland that killed two (2) bystanders. As one of the defendants escaped after the crash, this incident was featured on the America's Most Wanted television show.



On **April 10th**, at about 6 pm, BPD received numerous 911 calls of gun shots heard from the area of Harmon Street / California Street. Upon their arrival, officers located an abandoned vehicle in the intersection that had a number of bullet holes as well as bullet fragments lodged in the exteriors of nearby homes (BPD Case #13-19429).



On **March 27th**, at about 6:15 pm, BPD received numerous 911 calls of gun shots heard from the area of Harmon Street / California Street. Upon their arrival, officers located four (4) parked vehicles struck with bullets (BPD Case #13-16839).

No Escape for cell phone Thief near police station



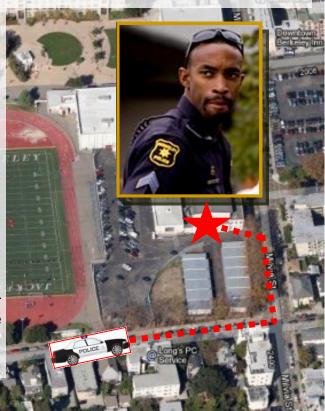
On **April 18th** at about 2:30 pm, a woman was walking along McKinley Avenue—carrying her iPhone in her hands. As she was listening to music, the woman was unaware of the man approaching her from behind. The man grabbed the woman's iPhone—trying to rip it from her hands. After a struggle, the man pushed the woman into some bushes and ran away with her iPhone. The woman then notified BPD.

As the BPD Dispatch Center dispatched officers to the area to search for the suspect, **Sergeant Spencer Fomby #S-7** also heard the broadcast while he was working at his police desk in the Community Services Bureau.

Hearing the broadcast of the nearby crime, Sergeant Fomby sprung into action. He quickly ran out of the building and began patrolling the surrounding area—in search of the suspect. While driving eastbound on Channing Way (see bottom right), Sergeant Fomby spotted the suspect—walking with another man. As Sergeant Fomby crept-up on the two in his patrol vehicle, the suspect turned around and noticed his approach.

Sergeant Fomby quickly got out his patrol vehiclemaking eye contact with the suspect. Before he could say a word, the suspect took off running.

Sergeant Fomby chased after suspect as he ran around Berkeley High School (see bottom right)— yelling for the man to "Stop!". As the suspect ran past the school's portable classrooms, he threw the stolen iPhone on the roof of one of the classrooms. Undeterred, Sergeant Fomby continued his pursuit of the suspect. The suspect jumped the fence into the school's construction site (just north of the portable classrooms). Sergeant Fomby jumped the fence as well, continuing his pursuit. When the suspect reached a dead-end in the construction site, he finally gave-up. Sergeant Fomby then took him into custody for the robbery (BPD Case #13-21054).



STORE CLERK ARRESTED FOR BUYING STOLEN CELL PHONES







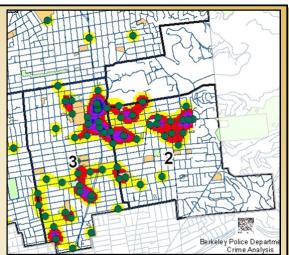
Their month-long investigation led detectives to the **M&H Market and Liquor store** located at the corner of Fairview Street and Adeline Street. During surveillance operations a clerk was seen buying stolen cell phones on several occasions. On **March 22, 2013**, detectives arrested Alawdi Saleh, 59, of Berkeley, an employee of the market, for knowingly purchasing phones which appeared to be stolen.



During this operation detectives also seized **over 20 cell phones**—some of which were stolen. This is an on-going investigation, and detectives are working to identify the owners of each cell phone and determine the status of the seized phones.

PEDESTRIAN ROBBERIES

Since the beginning of the year, the majority of pedestrian robberies have been occurring in the **Downtown** and **South Campus** areas of the City of Berkeley. Cellular phones are often the target of thefts and robberies, due to their high resale value.

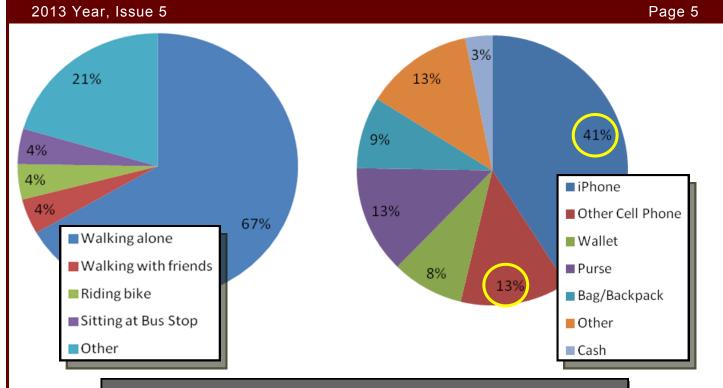




BPD encourages community members to take these crime prevention measures to avoid becoming a victim of theft or robbery:

- Do not talk on cell phones or listen to IPods when alone outside as they significantly limit awareness.
- Avoid Isolation—such as uninhabited parks, parking lots, garages, and alleyways; stick to well-lit, high-traffic areas.
- Walk with a purpose: Project an assertive image that conveys you know where you are going.





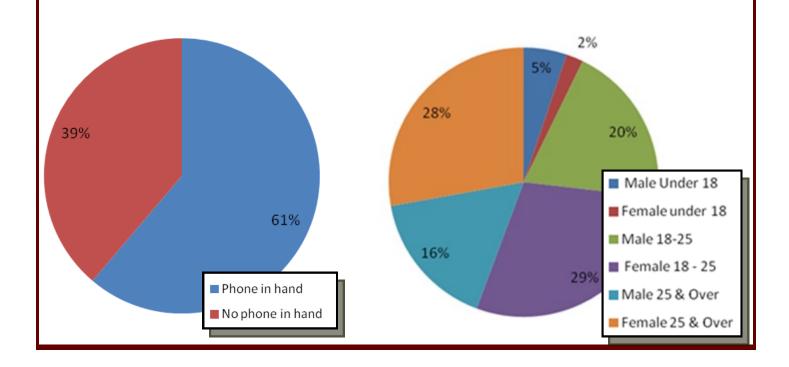
CRIME ANALYSIS: PEDESTRIAN ROBBERIES

An analysis of the pedestrian robberies that have occurred since the beginning of the year revealed that 67% of the victims were walking alone prior to being robbed (top right diagram).



In **54%** of those robberies, cell phones were taken (bottom right diagram). Of those robberies where cell phones were taken, **61%** of the victims had there cell phone in their hands just prior to the robbery.





DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CITY OF BERKELEY HAS ITS OWN JAIL?

The <u>Berkeley Jail</u> is a Type 1 pre-arraignment holding facility. Individuals arrested by the Berkeley Police Department (and several of our neighboring jurisdictions), are brought to the Berkeley Jail where they are housed until their first court hearing. Type I facilities are regulated by the State of California and have very strict guidelines for meals, care, and housing. The Berkeley Jail is inspected every year by the City of Berkeley's <u>Health Department</u> and the State of California's <u>Department</u> of <u>Corrections & Rehabilitation</u>.



The Berkeley Jail averages 200-240 detainees a month. There are 16 cells with a combined capacity of 39 detainees. Males and females are kept in separate areas. Detainees may be housed in the jail up to 48 business hours before they have their first court appearance. However, with weekends and holidays, a detainee may be housed in our jail for up to 96 hours.

When a person is arrested, they are brought to the jail where they are fingerprinted, photographed and searched for contraband. The individual is asked a series of questions in order to determine if they need medical treatment and how they may be housed.

Each detainee is assigned a court date once their fingerprints have been processed. Bail amounts vary depending on their respective charges and are set by the County. Generally, when a detainee has been processed, they may be bailed out. For some offenses, a detainee may be out on their own recognizance prior to going to court. Family members and friends may visit detainees during visiting hours.

Visiting hours are 4:30 pm to 6 pm on weeknights and 1 pm to 3 pm during the weekend.



On the day of the detainee's court date, they are transported to the <u>Glen Dyer Jail</u> in Oakland where Alameda County Sheriff's Deputies take over custody and ensure they make their assigned court times. At court, the detainee will be advised of all the criminal charges the District Attorney has filed against them. The detainee may be held for further hearings or may be released; depending on what occurs in court. If the detainee is not released, they may be held at Glen Dyer Jail or transferred to <u>Santa Rita Jail</u> in Dublin.

The Berkeley Jail is run by <u>Community Service Officers</u> who are civilian employees. The Berkeley Jail takes pride in treating all those detained with dignity and care while maintaining the safety of Berkeley citizens.

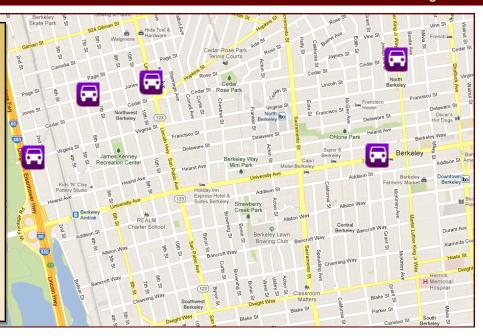
For general information about BPD's Jail Facility, please call (510) 981-5766.

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VAN THEFTS

Over the past month, the
Berkeley Police Department
has noticed a pattern of vans &
work trucks from businesses
being stolen and/or burglarized.
Thieves appear to be focusing
on the vans & work trucks for
the equipment and tools within.

Because of this, BPD is encouraging business owners to park their businesses' vans within a secure parking lot or garage.



Three

DRINK AND DRIVE

BEWARE THE WARMER WEATHER

As the temperatures rise, many residents will open windows and doors to have air circulate through their homes. Unfortunately, criminals know this too! In past times of warmer weather, BPD has noticed an increase in residential burglaries. In light of this, BPD is encouraging everyone to make an extra effort to not leave doors and windows unattended this summer.

Three men were arrested after beating and robbing a television reporter of his press credentials on April 18th on the **2400 block of Telegraph Avenue**. After receiving the 911 call from the reporter, Telegraph Avenue **UCPD-BPD Joint Patrol** officers quickly apprehended two of the suspects. The third suspect was located and arrested two days later by BPD patrol officers (BPD Case #13-18402).



MEMBER





SAVE THE DATE!!

August 6th, 2013

The City of Berkeley welcomes all Neighborhood Watch Groups, local businesses, faith based organizations, and community groups to organize and join us in a festive and positive night. Let's celebrate community, safety, disaster preparedness, and the fight against crime along with members from the Berkeley Police Department, Fire Department, and City of Berkeley staff on Tuesday, August 6th!!

Please let us know if your group is planning on participating in the 30th anniversary of National Night Out this year. To register, please contact **Officer Stephanie Polizziani #31** (spolizziani@ci.berkeley.ca.us) with an email if your group is in!

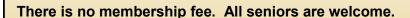




South Berkeley Senior Center

2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, Ca, 94703 (510) 981-5170.

The South Berkeley Senior Center was opened in 1979 to provide a place for folks 55 years and older to socialize, have lunch, attend classes and take part in a variety of trips, events and activities.





The center is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Hot lunch is served every day at noon (tickets are available at 11:30), with a suggested \$3.00 donation for anyone age 60 or older.



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Who are these People?

On **April 4, 2013** between 10:30 am and 11:45 am, an unknown suspect broke into personal locker in the men's locker room of the Downtown YMCA (2001 Allston Way)—stealing the victim's credit cards.

Later the same day, the person photographed here used the victim's credit cards to purchase thousands of dollars of merchandise at a nearby store (BPD Case #13-18245).

If you have information about this incident, please contact Property Crimes Detective Melanie Turner #70 at (510) 981-5737.







On April 15th at about 4:15 pm, a woman (photo on left) attempted to fraudulently withdraw thousands of dollars from a victims Wells Fargo Bank account at 2959 College Avenue. Using identification stolen from pickpocketing days prior, the suspect fled the bank after bank tellers became suspicious (BPD Case #13-20429). The woman was accompanied by an unknown man (photo on right).

If you have any information about this incident, please contact Property Crimes <u>Detective Alex McDougall</u> at (510) 981-5737.

ALAMEDA COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The Honor Guard, wearing the new Honor Guard uniforms, represented BPD at the Alameda County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony held May 8, 2013 at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward.

The event was held at the Memorial Wall dedicated in 2008 by the 100 Club of Alameda. The memorial honors peace officers and firefighters of Alameda County who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

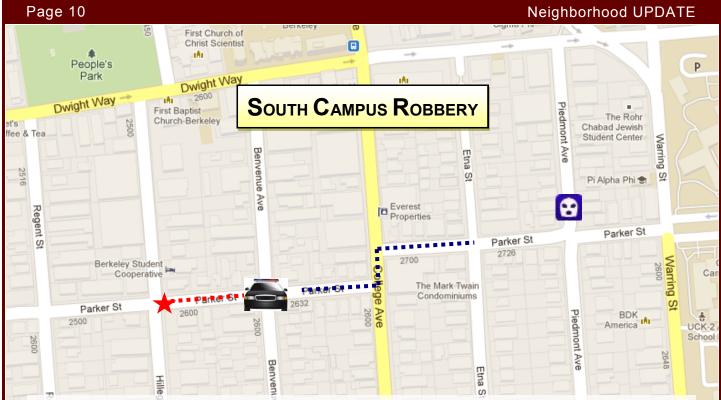


(pictured left to right) Officers Stephanie Cole, Chris Waite, Ryan Anderson, and Tom Syto.



M.A.D.D. is holding a fundraising event in Berkeley on **May 11, 2013 starting at 8:00 am** in Cesar Chavez Park. The Walk Like MADD event raises funds for the SF Bay Area Chapter to help prevent drunk driving, prevent underage drinking and support the victims of violent crime.

For more information about the upcoming event please go to www.walklikemadd.org/sanfrancisco.



On **April 5th** at about 2:45 pm, a woman was walking along Piedmont Avenue (near Parker Street) carrying her iPhone in her hands. As she walked, a suspect approached from behind and grabbed her arm, trying to rip her iPhone from her hands. The woman screamed and the suspect threatened to shoot her, causing the woman to let go of the iPhone. The suspect then ran away westbound on Parker Street.

Two men working in the area who heard the woman's screams decided to follow the suspect inside their vehicle, while others dialed 911 to report the incident.

Hearing the police radio broadcast, **Officer Matthew Valle #111** responded to the area to search for the suspect. Just as Officer Valle was driving on Parker Street (approaching Benvenue Avenue), he saw the suspect being chased by two men—yelling that the person they were chasing was the suspect. Officer Valle quickly parked, got out of his vehicle, and yelled for the suspect to "Stop!"

The suspect kept on running past Officer Valle. Officer Valle then chased the suspect westbound on Parker Street. The suspect darted between the north and south sidewalks trying to "shake" Officer Valle. Officer Valle kept the suspect in his sights, finally capturing him near the intersection of Parker Street and Hillegass Avenue. After arresting the suspect for the robbery, Officer Valle retraced the suspect's path while he called the victims stolen iPhone. The phone was subsequently located about 6' to 8' from where Officer Valle captured the suspect. Witnesses to this incident, directed officers to a jacket the suspect discarded after the robbery that contained a replica weapon (BPD Case #13-18402).





DAILY CALL FOR SERVICE LOG

The Daily Calls for Service Log is designed to allow community to see the volume and general nature of police activity that occurs in the City of Berkeley. The log is a list of calls for service, on-view activities, and dispatched police calls for service. This log is posted each weekday—excluding weekends and holidays. The weekend and holiday logs will generally be posted the following business day. Find it here, on BPD's website.

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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	(5 <mark>10) 981-5725</mark>	Records/PRA Requests	(510) 981-5750
Parking Enforcement	(510) 981-5890	Traffic Enforcement	(510) 981-5980

BPD Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator:

Officer Jeff Shannon #120 (510) 981-5779 JShannon@cityofberkeley.info

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—Officer Rashawn Cummings #34	(510) 981-5774	RCummings@ci.berkeley.ca.us

BPD Neighborhood Watch Scheduler:

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

BPD Special Events Coordinator:

Sergeant Spencer Fomby #S-7 (510) 981-5821 <u>SFomby@ci.berkeley.ca.us</u>

Regional Partners:

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

DOWNLOADABLE INCREMATION & FORMS

- Daily Activity Log
- Area Command Map
- Patrol Beat Map
- Vacation Watch Forms
- "No Trespassing" Letter
- "No Trespassing" Sign

Tip:

Any of these forms on the left can

be faxed to (510) 981-5819 or

be faxed to back as an attachment

Emailed back as an attachment

to Jortegaaci.berkeley.ca.us.



City of Berkeley Online Service Center

BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Services Bureau 2100 ML King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA, 94704

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

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Michael Meehan
Chief of Police

Cynthia Harris
Police Captain

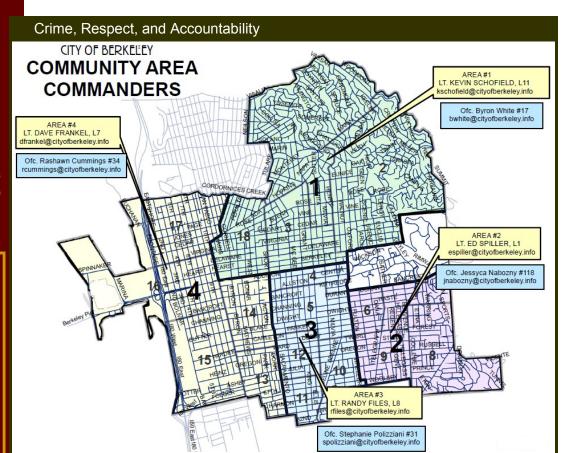
Lynne OhlsonBusiness Manager

Erik UpsonPolice Captain

Andrew Greenwood
Police Captain

Report
US Mail Crime!
Mail Theft/Tampering
Mailbox Vandalism
Mail Fraud
False Change of Address





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 with your Name and Mailing address 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/onlinepolicereport/

You can use the system so long as:

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