CRIME ADVISORY

Margo Bennett
Interim Chief of Police

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CELL PHONE THEFTS
CITY OF BERKELEY

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 and UCPD recommend taking the following steps in protecting your property and to discourage would-be criminals from committing cell phone thefts:

- 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.

If you have any information about these crimes, please contact:

Berkeley Police Department
(510) 981-5900 / 24 Hours

As with any emergency situation, if you see suspicious activity, call 911.
From a cell phone call (510) 642-3333.

University of California Police Department
Criminal Investigation Bureau
(510) 642-1606 / 8AM–5PM
(510) 642-6760 / All other times