

Central Police Station

766 Vallejo St. San Francisco, CA 94133 (415) 315-2400

Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday, May 02, 2006

The trouble with statistics

Statistics certainly have their place in the world. There are problems, however, with relying too much on the raw data alone. We are careful not to place patrols or personnel in areas or times based on crime data alone. Here in the Central District we are one of a few collection points for police reports due to our location. Tourists flock to our district to see the many wonderful attractions we have here.

Sometimes when they are in the neighborhood they stop at Central Station to report a lost cell phone, wallet, identification, passport or other item. When I run areas in our computer for places frequently listed as the location of crime, one address jumps out: 766 Vallejo Street. Some of you know that as the address for Central Station.

When we look at times of occurrence, we see that noon, 3 PM, 4 PM and later in the evening are high reporting times. When you think about it, these are times when people return home for lunch or after work and discover a crime. At closer look, we see that the crimes occur after store hours or at a residence when people are at work. We also see a pattern in the early afternoon, coincidentally when a lot of school kids are on the street at the same time. In this case, it makes sense to keep officers out in high traffic areas and along MUNI lines.

Conversely, if you do not report a crime in your area, we probably do not know about it. Sometimes I get calls about a cluster of crime activity in an area but do not see the data to support the claim. I then learn that many crimes are not reported because the theft is covered by insurance, deductible or just not worth a person's time to report it. My advice is to call the police to report suspicious activity or a crime so that we can track the activity. It may keep you or a neighbor from becoming another victim.

For those of you who have access to the Internet, I invite you to check out the Crime Mapping system at our website at www.sfgov.org/police. You can check out reported crime in your area, specifically to time, date and/or type.

Congratulations!

To Central Station **Officer Steve Matthias**, our School Resource Officer. Steve was awarded in recognition of outstanding efforts in Prevention and Community Policing efforts at the Safety Awareness For Everyone, (SAFE) 30th Anniversary Dinner. Officer Matthias is on site at our many schools, does investigations, follow ups, school and business safety surveys and many other good deeds. It is a pleasure to have him at Central Station.

Broadway Corridor:

On 4/26/06, the Platoon Commander described the corridor as "Active" with 5 criminal arrests made, 9 drunk related arrests made and 40 traffic citations issued. In addition 16 vehicles were towed. **On 4/27/06** there were 9 criminal arrests, 6 drunk related arrests and 28 traffic citations were issued.

Crimes Of Note:

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On **4/24/06** at 1:30 PM, **Lieutenants Jim Calonico and Alvin Yee** stopped their vehicle at the unit block of Grant Avenue to watch a suspect attempt to hacksaw a lock on a bicycle at a meter. After some investigation, the suspect was booked for Grand Theft and possession of Burglar tools.

On **4/24/06**, just after 9 PM, a suspect was seen entering an unlocked residence on Telegraph Hill. The resident confronted the suspect described as a white male 35 years old, 6' 190 pounds, wearing a grey shirt and blue running pants. After leaving the residence, **Supervisor Aaron Peskin** observed the individual loitering and called police. Shortly thereafter **Officers Marc Chan and John Ferrando** arrived and took the suspect into custody. The suspect has been seen in the area and may have gained access to several homes. On one occasion, he was found nude, sitting in a chair, reading a book.

On **4/25/2006** just before 11 PM, **Officers Kevin Worrell, Lyn Masetti, Nico Discenza and Joseph Porta** detained an individual 'casing' cars on the 1100 block of Bush. Officers determined that the suspect was an active Parolee armed with Burglar Tools. A vehicle was discovered with a broken window nearby. The suspect was booked for Parole violation and for Auto Burglary.

On **4/28/06** just after midnight, **Officers Nico Discenza and Chris Cotter** caught a graffiti suspect at Jones and Sutter Streets. The prolific 'tagger' is assumed responsible for several dozen tags in the area and we are aggressively pursuing prosecution. The suspect, an art student, was charged with a felony due to the amount of damage caused.

On **4/30/06** at 2:20 AM, a resident approached a car parked at Jackson and Leavenworth to complain about loud music emanating from within. 4 Hispanic males aged 20-30 jumped out of the car and attacked the individual, stabbing him in the process. Officers responded and rendered aid. The victim was transported to SF General Hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

On **4/30/06** at 4:30 PM, **Officer Mario Defina** was working the Fisherman's Wharf area when he spotted a suspect bilking tourists out of money in the 'shell game' fraud scheme. The suspect was booked and nearly \$500 was confiscated.

Finally, on **04/26/06** at 3 PM, Officers were called to the 2500 block of Taylor Street on the report of an explosive device found taped to a toilet seat in a public restroom. Officers cordoned off the area and called the EOD Section, (Bomb Squad) to respond. The specialists examined the device and found it to be a pressure activated noise box that simulated a barking dog sound.

Central Station Resource List

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EMERGENCY: 911
Non-Emergency: 553-0123
Cell phone 911: 553-8090
Central Station: 315-2400

Web: www.sfgov.org/police
(For Crime Stats, Internet reports, etc.)

Captain James I. Dudley 315-2480 james.dudley@sfgov.org
Anonymous Tip-Line 392-2623 **SF SAFE** 553-1984
Graffiti Abatement 278-9454 **Graffiti Fax** 278-9456

Central Events: 315-2440 **Sergeant John Colla**
Central Permits: 315-2423 **Officer Fred Crisp**
Code Abatement: 315-2417 **Sgt. Mark Hernandez**
Deputy City Attorney: 554-3906 **Niall Vignoles**

Dept. Parking & Traffic: 553-1943
DPW: 695-2020 **Dispatch**

Quality of Life Liaison: 298-0903 **Officer Kim Koltzoff**
Chinatown Beat: 315-2400 **Off. Leon Sorhondo & Jonathan Tong**
Union Square Beat: 315-2400 **Officer Carl Payne & Dan Gallagher**
Wharf Beat: 315-2400 **Officer Pete McLaughlin & Dan Wynn**
North Beach 315-2400 **Officer Mark Alvarez**

Community Liaison: 421-6443 x37 **Jessica Look (Tel-Hi)**

Phone numbers and web sites:

San Francisco Police Department Emergency 9-1-1 or non-emergency (415) 553-0123

Web site : www.sfgov.org/police

Central District Police Station main phone. # 415-315-2400

Central Station's web page : www.sfgov.org/police, and link to "Central Station".

Captain Dudley's e-mail address: james.dudley@ci.sf.ca.us

Central District Anonymous Tips Hotline: (415) 392-2623

Note: We continue to develop the e-mail list for our newsletter. Anyone wishing to receive copies is welcome. Please e-mail james.dudley@ci.sf.ca.us with your request and comments.

Captain James I. Dudley
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415 315-2480
fax 315-2450