Bicycle Theft & Recovery Potrero Avenue near SFGH

On Wednesday, July 29, 2015, the UCSF Police Department became aware of a bicycle theft and subsequent recovery which occurred near San Francisco General Hospital on Potrero Avenue.

On Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at approximately 5:45 pm, a bicycle was stolen from a UCSF employee who was pushing her bicycle on the sidewalk on Potrero Avenue near 20th Street. The suspect approached the victim, grabbed the bicycle and rode away. A passing motorist witnessed the theft, gave chase and was able to recover the bicycle some distance away. The suspect fled in an unknown direction. The Good Samaritan motorist promptly returned the bicycle to its owner.

The suspect is described as a white male adult, approximately 6’ tall, with shaggy blond hair, wearing blue jeans and a blue striped shirt.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the UCSF Police Department at (415) 476-1414. Refer to Case # 2015-24055

Personal Safety Tips:
Suspects look for crimes of opportunity and certain personal safety measures can be followed to minimize your chances of becoming a victim. These are:
- Be vigilant of suspicious persons. Call UCSF PD if a suspicious person is seen loitering on campus.
- Travel in groups whenever possible, especially at night.
- Avoid poorly-lit or deserted areas when walking at night.
- Stay alert to your surroundings; avoid headphone and cell phone use when walking or waiting alone.
- If you are walking to your car, keep your car keys easily accessible, preferably in your hand.
- If you feel you are being followed, go into an open business and ask for help.
- Keep emergency numbers pre-programmed into your cell phone.
- If you are faced with demands for your money or property, especially from an armed subject, comply with their demands in the interest of your safety.

Bike Theft Prevention Tips:
Suspects look for crimes of opportunity and certain safety measures can be followed to minimize your chances of becoming a victim of bicycle theft. These are:
- Always lock your frame with a high quality U-lock or a heavy NYC Chain and secure your wheels. Make sure to fill up as much space inside the “U” as possible with poles, posts, and your frame and wheel. Leaving empty space gives room for a thief to pry open your lock.

Together for a Safe and Crime Free Campus

Mike Denson
Interim Chief of Police

This alert is a public service to the University community and in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act of 1998
• A cable lock is not enough to protect your bicycle against theft. Cable locks are easy to cut. Get rid of any U-lock with a round barrel key. These locks can be broken into easily by an experienced thief.
• Find an appropriate fixed object to lock your bike to. Don’t lock your bike to a pole or post that is loose in the ground. Thieves may have loosened it themselves.
• Remove lights and speedometers when parking your bike. Replace quick-releases with other types of skewers.
• Protect your bike by registering it. While registering your bike won’t keep it from being stolen, it greatly aids in recovery of the bicycle by police. The police will not be able to release the bicycle to the owner without proof that it belongs to you. In addition, it helps the police identify and locate the proper owner. The National Bike Registry is an excellent resource for getting your bike registered into a nationwide database. A bike registered with NBR, the only true national database, can be identified by police and returned to you instead of being sold at an auction.
• Record your bike’s serial number and other descriptive info and store in a safe place.
• If your bicycle is stolen, report it to the police. The police will request simple descriptive information, your serial number, and a photo of the bike, if possible. Remember to request a copy of your police report.
• Post the theft as STOLEN: on craigslist. Sometimes cyclists are happily reunited with their bicycles by other craigslist viewers who have seen (or even accidentally bought) the bicycle online or on the street. You can also monitor EBAY, and post the bike missing to online email lists within the bike community. It always helps to have other eyes out searching! Stolen bikes have also been recovered at Bay Area flea markets and the notorious San Francisco Civic Center Plaza.

Help fight crime by reporting suspicious activity to UCSF PD immediately. For emergency or in-progress events, dial 9-911 when using on-campus land lines and (415) 476-6911 when using cell phones. For non-emergency calls, please dial (415) 476-1414.

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