



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Safety Advisory – Cell Phone Robberies

Oakland, CA — The Oakland Police Department advises the public of an increasing amount of armed robberies where cell phones and electronics are stolen. With newer and more expensive cell phones becoming increasingly popular, they are very noticeable and lucrative targets for thieves.

Locations of reported crimes and suspect descriptions vary, but victims often share the characteristic of being distracted by cell phones or other devices while walking on city streets and sidewalks. Victims of these robberies are also often Asian or Hispanic.

Anyone with information regarding ongoing investigations is asked to contact the Major Crimes Unit at (510) 238-3821.

AS A SAFETY REMINDER:

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't allow yourself to be distracted by cell phones or electronic devices.
- Stay in well lit and populated areas as much as possible.
- Be especially alert when entering and exiting your vehicle.
- Remember to lock your car door after entering your vehicle.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS, REPORT CRIMES, AND REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

- If someone or something looks suspicious, call the police.
- Prepare to provide your carrier service, phone number, make and model, and IMEI number when filing a police report and contacting your carrier.
- Consider installing anti-theft or tracking software, and using phone locking or PIN features.
- Consider the use of ultra-violet pen markings on your handset and battery, and report marking details when filing a police report.

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California

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