

# Central Police Station



766 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, California 94133, 415-315-2400

## *Weekly Newsletter*

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Captain James I. Dudley

**“When should I call 911?”** That is a question I am often asked at community meetings, by e-mail and in person. People are often worried that their problem may not require an immediate response or that it may take away from a more important call. My answer is always: “When it involves a suspect, if there is a life threatening emergency, or in order to prevent a crime, call 911 and let the dispatcher make the determination.” People have a tendency to rationalize or minimize an incident and may decide not to call at all. The Emergency Communications Dispatcher who answers 911 will take the information and give it a priority code of A, B or C. The A priority call is immediately broadcast for emergency response. The B priority is less urgent but still requires immediate dispatch, while the C priority may take several minutes to dispatch. In some cases, a caller may be diverted to the non-emergency line. Another resource is the 311 number, (see information at the end of this newsletter.)

“Cold” reports may be made at Central Station, the telephone or even via Internet. Calls may be made to Central Station for information, but calls are not dispatched from there. Bottom line: when in doubt, make the call.

**A great example of when to call 911** occurred **Sunday night, 10/28/07 at 10 PM**. An individual was told that a white male suspect made threats to **“burn down” Grace Cathedral at 1100 California Street**. Officers contacted the reporting individual, received more information and coordinated a search of the area, using a previous arrest “mug photo” of the suspect to guide them. **Officers Warren Lee, Jesse Heredia and Mark Alvarez** discovered the suspect on the grounds, wearing a long black coat, black t- shirt and bloused, camouflaged pants and military style boots. The Officers detained the individual and were alarmed to see that he was wearing a “utility belt” with apparent fuses coming from them. The suspect was also armed with a replica machine pistol affixed with a silencer.

The arrest was made, and follow-up coordination was done with the SFPD Arson Squad and the Tactical Company’s EOD Unit, (Bomb Squad). A search of the cathedral grounds was made with a bomb sniffing canine and no additional devices were located. It was apparent, however, that the suspect was dressed and armed with incendiary devices and was sure to make good his threat on the church. I commend the citizen for determining the threat to be legitimate and in making the call to the police. The officers also considered the threat imminent and serious and acted on the information given. This was good, quick, responsive policing made in response to a timely call.

**Halloween Safety Tips from SAFE:**

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It's almost time to "Trick or Treat"! Halloween is a time of candy and fun... but kids (as well as adults) should also think about safety, and how to avoid the bad tricks and treats. Here are some general safety tips to follow so you can enjoy yourself and have a ghoulish night!

1. Costumes should fit correctly so kids won't trip on them. Wear light-colored costumes so you can be seen easily at night.
2. Kids should not try to Trick or Treat by themselves. They should go with an adult and a group of friends.
3. Map out where you and your friends will be going. Visit only the well-lighted houses.
4. Trick or Treat while it is still light out; always bring a flashlight, it may get dark. Wear a reflective costume or stickers.
5. Pick well-lighted streets. Walk on the sidewalks. Do not take shortcuts or alleys!
6. Only accept candy at a person's front door. Do not go inside of a house or into someone's car.
7. Have a back-up plan in case you get separated from your group. Carry a cell phone or a walkie-talkie or money for a pay phone, and the number of a trusted adult.
8. Don't eat any candy until you get home. Have an adult check to make sure there are no tricks in your treats! If there is any suspicious candy, call 311 or 911.

### **Community Policing Spotlight (part 2 of 2)**

Last week I spoke about the **Middle Polk Neighborhood Association** and the things they have done to bring several different City agencies together to help address their crime problems. That is always a great start, using a problem solving method to look at all the components of the crime, and to identify who has responsibility and how they can help. Beyond that, the association uses meetings to organize community clean ups of trash and graffiti, to discuss planning issues and other items to involve the community. In essence, it is not so much about **Community Policing as it is Community Problem Solving**. As far as the **three sides of the crime triangle** are concerned, the association is helping change the contributing **location component**. It is up to the police, D.A. and other agencies to reshape the **suspect component**. We all share responsibility in informing and educating the public, to help change the potential **victim component**.

One valuable resource in community organizing is Safety Awareness For Everyone, **SAFE, at 553-1984**. They can help with business or neighborhood watch group organizing or with one of their security specialists doing a site survey of your home or business. Daniel Homsey, (359-3005), of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services can help bring other City Agencies to the table.

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### **Broadway Corridor**

#### Friday October 26, 2007:

Felony arrests made	0
Misdemeanor arrests made	0
Drunk related arrests made	2
Moving citations	2
Parking citations issued	25
Towed vehicles	25

#### Saturday October 27, 2007:

Felony arrests	0
Misdemeanor arrests made	1
Drunk related arrests made	6
Moving citations	13
Parking citations issued	8
Towed vehicles	24

### **Chinatown**

**In the past few weeks, we have experienced a dozen or so Burglaries in Chinatown.** A suspect had the same method of operation of taking a distinctive rock, breaking a window, and pulling up the metal gate to gain access into a business at night. For over a week, we have had information on a suspect, a **45 year old white male, 6' 195 pounds**, with brown slicked back hair and brown eyes. **On 10/24/07 at 4:35 hours, Officers Matt Sullivan and Rene Nielsen**, working plainclothes along the Geary Street corridor noticed the suspect on Larkin Street. The alert officers detained the well known parolee and arrested him. A subsequent search revealed suspected crack cocaine in his possession. The SFPD Burglary Detail is doing follow up on the dozen or so burglary cases to make a match with our suspect. To date, he has been charged with 7 of the burglary cases. This great piece of Police work culminated from several officers on days and nights, in plainclothes and on foot beats, working on solving this plague of serial burglaries.

### **Crimes of Note**

**On 10/21/07 at 12:00 PM, in Washington Square Park**, two dog owners had their animal's off-leash when one attacked and killed the other. The owner of the deceased dog obtained the identification of the other party and later reported the incident at Central Station.

**On 10/21/07 at 1:11 AM, at Taylor and Bay, Officers Christopher Olson, Joan Cronin, Richard Hunt, and Kevin Coleman** located the vehicle and occupants which had generated a noise complaint at that location. The vehicle was found to have a license plate which did not correspond to the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), but the vehicle was not stolen. The operator was cited for this violation and the passenger was booked on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

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**On 10/22/07 at 9:30 AM, on the 700 block of Clay, Officer Daryl Fong** was on foot patrol when he noticed a man loitering near a designated children's play area. Upon contacting the man, Officer Fong determined that he was a sex offender who had violated the conditions of his probation by not (re-) registering as required by law.

**On 10/23/07 at 4:55 AM, near Geary & Hyde, Inspector Joe Fong** of the Vice Crimes Unit arrested a young woman for loitering with the intent to engage in prostitution. Similar arrests continue to be made in this multi-unit effort to alleviate the problem of prostitution activity in the area.

**On 10/24/07 at 2:55 AM, on the 800 block of Pacific,** a man was exiting the complex when he was pulled into an alley and beaten by a group of men, one armed with a baseball bat. The victim was robbed of \$30.00 before he could run from his attackers. The suspects were described as young black males all wearing hooded black sweatshirts and black pants.

**On 10/24/07 at 10:05 PM, on the 1100 block of Jones,** a suspect broke into a parked car but was surprised by a witness (area resident) before he could steal anything. The suspect fled on foot. **Officers Rene Nielsen and Matt Sullivan** detained the suspect a few blocks away. With the assistance of **Officers Barry Mlaker and Dave Frias**, the Officers were able to piece together the crime and book the detained suspect for auto burglary. The suspect was on active felony probation and had an outstanding warrant for burglary.

**On 10/26/07 at 1:50 AM, at Geary & Jones, Officers Matt Sullivan and Rene Nielsen** were working plainclothes. The Officers were on foot and watching for narcotics activity. They engaged a suspect into conversation and conducted a warrants check. The check revealed that the suspect was on active probation with a search condition. Officers Sullivan and Nielsen found 11 pieces of crack cocaine in his pants pocket. An almost identical arrest had been made by these officers the previous morning on the 700 block of Hyde St. In that arrest, the suspect was also on probation and in possession of crack cocaine.

**On 10/26/07 at 9:22 AM, on the 400 block of Northpoint,** two suspects broke into a locked vehicle and removed property. With the assistance of witnesses, **Sgt. Ed Garcia, along with Officers Eric Caracciolo, Bob Merino and Craig Brandolino** apprehended the suspects inside a nearby apartment. Both suspects were booked for auto burglary.

**On 10/29/07 at 4 AM, Officers Derek Brown and Jason Gallagher** responded to the area of **Post and Leavenworth** on a call of an auto burglary that had just occurred. The officers coordinated a search of the area and detained a suspect who fit the burglar's description. They determined the suspect was one in the same and recovered stolen property from him, including property and burglary tools. While en route to the station, the officers noticed that the suspect had choked himself unconscious with a string from his down jacket. Paramedics responded to aid the individual.

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### Central Station Resource List

EMERGENCY:	911		
Non-Emergency:	553-0123		
Cell phone 911:	553-8090		
Customer Service Center:	311		
Central Station:	315-2400		
Web:		<a href="http://www.sfgov.org/police">www.sfgov.org/police</a>	
Captain James I. Dudley	315-2480	<a href="mailto:james.dudley@sfgov.org">james.dudley@sfgov.org</a>	
Anonymous Tip-Line	392-2623	SAFE	553-1984
Graffiti Abatement	278-9454	Sgt. Steve Shanahan	
Graffiti Fax	278-9456	<a href="mailto:steven.shanahan@sfgov.org">steven.shanahan@sfgov.org</a>	
Central Events:	315-2440	Sergeant John Colla	
Central Permits:	315-2423	Officer Fred Crisp	
Code Abatement:	315-2417	Sgt. Mark Hernandez	
Deputy City Attorney:	554-3820	Jill Cannon	
Dept. Parking & Traffic:	553-1943		
DPW:	695-2020	Dispatch	
Quality of Life Liaison:	298-0903	Officer Kim Koltzoff	
Homeless Issues:	850-6146	Off. Jay Shastri, Off. Bob Cebalo, Cathy Daly and Vic Silveira	
Chinatown Beat:	315-2400	Off. Leon Sorhondo & Stewart Ng	
Union Square Beat:	315-2400	Officer Carl Payne & Tom Cunnane	
Wharf Beat:	315-2400	Officer Noel De Leon and Bob Merino	
North Beach	315-2400	Officer Mark Alvarez & Mike Kangrga	
Community Liaison:	421-6443 x16	James Knoebber at Tel-Hi	

**The Police Community Meeting** is held on the third Thursday of each month at Tel-Hi Community Room at 660 Lombard Street from 6-7 PM

### **Megan's Law Website Access:**

The general public can find out information on sexual predators on line by going to the DOJ website: [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov) or at the SFPD link at [www.sfgov.org/police](http://www.sfgov.org/police). You may check specific names or zip codes to locate those listed in the database.

**Join the SFPD:** [www.sfgov.org/police](http://www.sfgov.org/police)

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**Join the SFPD Citizen's Academy: Call Lula Magellon** at 415-401-4720 or check:  
[www.sfgov.org/police\\_index.asp?id=20182](http://www.sfgov.org/police_index.asp?id=20182)

### **311 Customer Service Center:**

What is 311? 311 is a toll free, **NON-EMERGENCY** phone number that the public can call to access information about government services. A live customer service representative will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. The service is available to both wired and wireless customers. Wireless customers should call (415) 701-2311. 311 employees will be able to provide translations services in more than 145 languages and dialects and will employ a diverse staff of customer service representatives. Additionally, 311 is set up to accept calls from the hearing impaired by utilizing a TTY System.

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