

San Francisco Police Department



Strategic Approach to Property Crime

William Scott, Chief of Police October 4, 2017



Property Crime Concerns

- San Francisco experienced an increase in property crime in 2015, predominantly due to the rising number of auto burglaries.
- Auto burglaries rose from 12,336 in 2012 to 26,040 in 2015.
- In 2016, there were 24,235 reported auto burglaries and 4,978 burglaries.
- Comparing year-to-date 2016 to 2017:
 - Auto burglaries have increased 25% from 15,934 to 19,975 reported incidents.
 - Burglaries have decreased 5% from 3,411 to 3,252 reported incidents.



Contributing Factors

- Non-violent crimes of opportunity occur within seconds.
- The City has many target-rich environments (neighborhoods, businesses, tourist areas).
- Recent trends indicate offenders are moving from committing violent crimes to property crime to avoid prosecution.
- Small electronic items commonly left in vehicles, such as laptops, tablets, smart phones, GPS, and digital cameras, have strong resale value on the black market.



Community Outreach

- The Department continues to engage in community outreach efforts and public education campaigns directly and through partnerships including:
 - Park Smart Campaign
 - District Community Police Advisory Boards (CPABs)
 - Local community groups
 - The Ambassador Program
 - SF Safety Awareness for Everyone (SF SAFE)
 - Collaboration with other City agencies to identify and place signage in hot spot areas
 - Evaluate environmental design in neighborhoods to reduce/eliminate potential target areas
 - Robust information provided to the community by District Captains through newsletters to include crime analysis data, offender information, and prevention techniques



Redeployment of Resources

- Redeployment of centralized personnel back to district stations to increase uniform presence in various assignments (foot beats, patrol officers in vehicles and bicycles, etc.).
- A visible police uniform presence focuses on locations which have experienced an increase in property crime
- With plainclothes and undercover experience, redeployed staff have specialized training and skills to share with patrol officers.
- Focused cross and multi-district operations with plainclothes officers serves as a force multiplier.



Support and Resources

- The Investigations Division will provide additional support and resources for the investigation and prevention of property crimes including:
 - A restructure of the Crime Analysis Unit into the Strategic Operations Section will enhance communication and the sharing of specific crime information directly to the district stations, as well as centralized staff and the District Attorney's Office.
 - Centralize investigators will provide enhanced support to district investigators on serial cases.
 - Station investigators will investigate and specialize in neighborhood crime issues.



Repeat Offenders Strategies

- Focused efforts on known repeat property crime offenders.
- Develop strategies to apprehend repeat and known offenders including surveillance and search warrants leading to arrests.
- Network with the District Attorney's Office, including their Crime Strategies Unit, to enhance information developed by our Crime Analysts to support stronger prosecution following arrest.
- Investigations have led to the recovery of stolen property further strengthening the prosecution of repeat offenders.



Questions