Department of Public Safety

Timely Warning
INCIDENT: ROBBERY

ALERT #: 2016-006

REPORTED OFFENSE: The complainant (student) was walking northbound on Vermont Avenue near 34th Street when he was approached by two suspects who simulated a weapon and demanded his property. The complainant complied with suspects’ demands and he was escorted to an ATM machine where he withdrew some money and gave it to the suspects who then fled on foot.

DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE: December 26, 2016 at 1800hrs

LOCATION: 3400 Block of Vermont Avenue

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION (provided by reporting party):
Suspect-1, Male, Black, 20-30 years old, 5’6”, thin build, wearing a dark beanie and a dark sweater
Suspect-2, Female, Black, 20-30 years old, 5’5”, heavy-set build, wearing black leggings with a white stripe

SUSPECT VEHICLE: None

If you are in immediate danger, call the LAPD at 9-1-1 or DPS at (213) 740-4321. If you have information relevant to the crime(s) call the Department of Public Safety (DPS) at (213) 740-6000 or the LAPD Southwest Division at (213) 485-6571.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) issues warnings to the university community when a criminal incident occurs and represents a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. The purpose of this warning is to aid in the prevention of similar crimes by alerting the community about the incident so they may make informed decisions about their personal safety.

USC Department of Public Safety Recommendations – Robbery

If you are the victim of a robbery remain calm and do not resist. Assure the robber you will cooperate and take no action that may jeopardize your safety. Do not make any quick or unexpected movements. Follow the robber’s direction, but do not offer more than they ask for. Don’t argue with the robber. After the robbery, go immediately to a safe location and report the crime. For the University Park Campus (UPC) call DPS emergency at (213) 740-4321, for the Health Sciences Campus (HSC) call (323) 442-1000 or the LAPD at 9-1-1.

- If you observe a crime in progress, STAY CALM AND CALL DPS emergency for UPC at (213) 740-4321, for the Health Sciences Campus call (323) 442-1000 or the LAPD at 9-1-1.

- Be a good witness: It is important to recall what you observed and provide as many details as possible to law enforcement such as: the sex, race, age, height, hair color, clothing, tattoos, scars of any suspects and a description of the make and model of any vehicle used in the crime and its license plate if possible.
Do not attempt to apprehend any suspects or perpetrators of crime. Do not walk alone; travel in pairs. Avoid using cell phones or other technology while walking as criminals target inattentive individuals using them.

Get a Ride: If you work, study or take classes at night, you don’t have to walk to your car or home alone. The USC Campus Cruiser will take you to your destination. If wait periods exceed 15 minutes, calls are automatically outsourced to Uber, which you can take for free, ensuring you’ll never have to wait long for a safe ride home.

Blue light emergency phones are located throughout the University Park and Health Sciences campuses. The phones are connected to the USC Department of Public Safety’s 24-hour communications center and identify the phone location if the caller is unable to talk. The phones can be used to request an escort, report suspicious activity, and to report crimes.

Yellow Jackets: In addition to DPS officers who patrol a 2.5 mile radius around USC’s campuses, USC contracts with “security ambassadors” to patrol street corners in nearby neighborhoods. This security force wears bright yellow jackets so you can easily spot them. If you’re off campus and in need of assistance, look for a Yellow Jacket.

LiveSafey: To immediately contact DPS or 911 with a push of a button on your mobile phone, download the Trojan Mobile Safety APP “LIVESAFE” from Google Play or the Apple iTunes Store. For more information regarding LIVESAFE visit http://usc.edu/mobilesafety

TrojansAlert: Register for USC’s emergency notification system TrojansAlert to allow university officials to contact you during an emergency by sending messages via text message and email at https://trojansalert.usc.edu/register.php.

For further information and tips visit http://dps.usc.edu/safety-tips/suspicious-activity/robbery/.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE USC CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Student Health Center (213) 740-9355
Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (Formerly known as Center for Women and Men) (RSVP) (213) 740-4900
USC Counseling Center (213) 740-7711 for students
(213) 743-2770 for faculty and staff

If you have any questions regarding this crime alert, please contact the Watch Commander in the Department of Public Safety at (213) 740-5523.