Department of Public Safety

CRIME ALERT

ALERT #: CA2018-009
DPS Case# 1803157

REPORTED OFFENSE: Robbery and Grand Theft-Person

DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE: August 24, 2018 at 12:45 P.M.

LOCATIONS: Exposition Park Rose Gardens 701 State Street (off campus) & 800 Block of Exposition Blvd (on campus)

INCIDENT #1: Victim (non-USC related) accompanied by a friend was walking through the Exposition Park Rose Garden when approached by a suspect demanding the victim’s cell phone. The suspect displayed a handgun. The victim offered to pay the suspect $500 instead of taking his cell phone. The suspect agreed, took the money, and ran eastbound through the park.

INCIDENT #2: Victim (USC student) was smoking a cigarette while looking at his cell phone when approached by a suspect walking east bound on Exposition Blvd. The suspect snatched the victim’s cell phone and ran eastbound on Exposition Bl (towards Figueroa).

Surveillance cameras later revealed that both suspects (based on the victims description) entered a vehicle at the Starbucks on the corner of Figueroa Street and Exposition and drove away.

SUSPECTS DESCRIPTION:
Incident#1: Male, black, black hair, 6’0, approximately 180 lbs., 21-25 years of age, wearing a white long sleeve shirt, blue shorts, turquoise backpack

Incident#2: Male, black, no additional information

SUSPECT VEHICLE: Dark Chevy Malibu, no further information.

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.
Avoid using cell phones or other technology while walking as criminals target distracted, inattentive individuals using them.

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 to law enforcement.** 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.

**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 Lyft, 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.

**Security Ambassadors:** 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 cardinal and yellow jackets so you can easily spot them. If you’re off campus and in need of assistance, look for a Security Ambassador.

**LiveSafe:** 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](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 (UPC) (213) 740-9355
Eric Cohen Student Health Center (HSC) (323) 442-5631
USC Counseling Center (UPC) (213) 740-7711 for students
(213) 743-2770 for faculty and staff
Eric Cohen Counseling Center (HSC) (323) 442-5631

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