

Subject: Community Crime Alert - RESTAURANT TAKE-OVER ROBBERIES

RESTAURANT TAKE-OVER ROBBERIES

FOUR RESTAURANT/BAR TAKEOVER ROBBERIES HAVE RECENTLY OCCURRED ON THE WESTSIDE. THREE CRIMES OCCURRED DURING SEPTEMBER, ONE EACH IN THE WEST LOS ANGELES (WLA), PACIFIC AND CULVER CITY AREAS. THE LAST CRIME WAS COMMITTED IN WLA IN LATE OCTOBER. TWO SUSPECTS WEARING SKI MASKS AND ARMED WITH SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUNS ENTER THE LOCATIONS AT OR NEAR CLOSING TIME AND ORDER ALL THE OCCUPANTS ONTO THE FLOOR. THE SUSPECTS TAKE MONEY FROM THE CASH REGISTERS, CASH DRAWERS, CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES.

THE SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN ALTERNATELY DESCRIBED AS 20-25 YEAR-OLD MALE BLACK, OR ONE MALE BLACK AND ONE MALE WHITE. SUSPECT VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS A DARK COLORED 2-DOOR POSSIBLE SATURN (CULVER CITY INCIDENT) AND A '97/98 4-DOOR GREEN HONDA ACCORD.

RESTAURANT OWNERS ARE ASKED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO MAKE THEIR BUSINESSES SAFE:

. HAVE AT LEAST TWO EMPLOYEES OPEN AND CLOSE THE BUSINESS . INSTALL A ROBBERY ALARM . PLACE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LOCATIONS; HAVE A CAMERA BEHIND THE CASH REGISTER FACING THE FRONT COUNTER . KEEP A LOW BALANCE IN THE CASH REGISTER . KEEP THE RESTAURANT WELL LIT, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE . LEAVE BLINDS AND DRAPES OPEN TO ALLOW POLICE OFFICERS TO VISUALLY INSPECT THE INSIDE OF THE RESTAURANT . DON'T RESIST AN ARMED ROBBER! PERSONAL SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY OR MERCHANDISE . DON'T TALK EXCEPT TO ANSWER THE ROBBER'S QUESTIONS AND DON'T STARE DIRECTLY AT THE ROBBER . DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES AND KEEP YOUR HANDS IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES . REMEMBER, IF AN EMPLOYEE OR CUSTOMER WALKS INTO THE MIDDLE OF A ROBBERY IN PROGRESS IT COULD STARTLE THE ROBBER AND LEAD TO VIOLENCE. DEVELOP A POLICY AND PROCEDURE WITH EMPLOYEES, BASED ON COMMON SENSE, ON HOW TO HANDLE THESE SITUATIONS.

. AFTER THE ROBBERY, LOCK THE RESTAURANT, CALL THE POLICE, DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING THE ROBBER MAY HAVE TOUCHED AND WRITE DOWN AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE ROBBER(S), WEAPON, PROPERTY TAKEN AND VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE . IMPORTANT: COOPERATE WITH THE ROBBER FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS. REMAIN CALM, THINK CLEARLY AND COMPLY WITH THE ROBBER'S DEMAND

IF THE ABOVE ACTIVITY IS OBSERVED, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE A POLICE UNIT DISPATCHED. ANY OTHER SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE ROBBERY UNIT DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AT (310) 575-8441