

## **The University of Pacific – An example of a complete investigation through community policing.**

Over the past several years, the City of Stockton, California, has undergone a complete transformation due to funding shortages. Municipal agencies that were responsible for responding to community needs lost personnel which impacted their ability to respond to city issues. What the community learned is that they needed to work together to address some of these issues especially when it came to safety.

**The University of Pacific** is a private institution with a sworn Police Department. These police powers are a result of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stockton Police Department. This has been a benefit to the campus in recruiting students as their parents are concerned with sending their student to a city that ranks low in terms of safety. The University Of Pacific Department Of Public Safety has fully embraced the concept of Community Oriented Policing and addressing safety issues not only on campus but in the neighborhoods that surround the campus.

This was illustrated recently when officers responded to an off campus burglary where students suffered severe financial loss. Two international students from China rented a home several blocks from campus during the summer. Two of their fellow China students were allowed to park their two vehicles in their driveway which contained all of their valuables while they returned to their homeland. The residents decided to leave for several days to visit friends with no one at home to watch over their belongings.

When the residents returned home, they found that their home was ransacked, valuables were missing and the two cars with all of their friend's belongings were gone. They called the University Police due to their response time. City residents have experienced waiting periods of up to eight hours on a burglary report. Officers investigated the incident but decided to walk the neighborhood to see if anyone may have seen something as they believed the suspects must have made several trips due to the amount of items taken. They located a neighbor that had an elaborate camera system surrounding his home that overlooked an alleyway.

Officers asked the neighbor if he could view his camera footage to see if he may have recorded something unusual. A day later, he called officers back to his house and showed them a man on a bicycle pulling an unusual trailer. The bicyclist made several trips back and forth in the alley, at times with what appeared to be the victim's stolen items. Officers were able to get a snap shot of that bicycle pulling a trailer and put a flier together which was sent out to several neighborhood watch groups, the business district, Stockton Unified School District, Stockton Police and several other agencies.

Officers started contacting area transient that sleep near the campus and showed them the flier. One of them advised the officer they have seen the owner of the bicycle and he lived near a park about a mile from the campus. Officers went to the area and found a house with the bicycle and trailer parked on the side of the house. There was a vehicle parked in the driveway that matched one of the stolen vehicles though it had no license plates. A check of the V.I.N. identified the vehicle as one of the stolen. Officers checked with San Joaquin Probation and learned that a resident in the house was on searchable probation.

Officers contacted the regional auto theft task force who made contact at the residence to conduct a probation search. It was fortunate that the University of Pacific Officers were not

involved in that initial contact as detectives had to shoot a charging pit bull. Several arrests were made in the house, the majority of the stolen property was recovered and they located the second stolen vehicle. They discovered stolen property from other victims as well. Officers were not done, as they identified the owner of the rental property through a software program provided to the department by the Stockton Police. They made contact with the owner and explained to him what had occurred and the impact his tenant's actions were having on the neighbors. Officers worked with the resident in the eviction process. The occupants were evicted and the conditions in the neighborhood have improved. This is just a small example on how community policing can improve the safety on and around the campus.

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