CAL STATE LA PUBLIC SAFETY

Timely Warning Crime Bulletin: Motor Vehicle Theft

This Timely Warning Bulletin is being issued in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act. The purpose is to provide information to the campus community that will prevent others from becoming the victim of a similar crime.

Summary: On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at approximately 3:04 p.m., it was reported to the Department of Public Safety that an attempted motor vehicle theft had just taken place on the top level of Parking Structure A. The incident was captured on video with a cell phone and forwarded to the Department of Public Safety for follow-up. The video shows the suspect attempting to take the victim's vehicle, a black Kia Optima, which resulted in damage to the victim's door lock and vehicle ignition. The suspect immediately retreated to a white Kia Optima that was standing by. It was later determined that the white Kia Optima was also taken from campus earlier in the day or the night before.

Suspect description: Male, Latino, 18-25 years, approximately 5'8'', wearing a white T-shirt with a black long-sleeve undershirt, light-colored pants, and an LA Kings baseball cap. The suspect also has a green-colored tattoo on his right wrist and hand.



If you have any information regarding this crime, please contact the Department of Public Safety on-duty Watch Commander at 323-343-3700 or call the Victim/Witness Assistance Line, available 24-hours a day, at 323-343-3756.

In recent months, the city and county of Los Angeles have seen a spike in auto thefts, specifically that of Kias and Hyundais, which has also been a noticeable trend across the nation. The vehicle years are 2012-2020. Suspects are able to enter the vehicle and manipulate the ignition very quickly. The manufacturers of these vehicles have acknowledged this flaw and are recommending the use of an anti-theft steering wheel lock (club). More information regarding Kia and Hyundai thefts can be found online.

Hyundai customers can contact the Hyundai Consumer Assistance Center at 1-800-633-5151. Kia customers with questions regarding their Kia vehicle should contact the Consumer Assistance Center directly at 1-800-333-4542 (4Kia).

If you are the victim of a motor vehicle theft on campus:
Contact the Department of Public Safety immediately by calling 323-343-3700 and be prepared to provide the following:

- License plate number and vehicle year, make, model, and color;
- Date, time, and location you last saw your vehicle;
- Date and time you discovered your vehicle missing; and
- Advise if you subscribe to a vehicle tracking service, such as Lojack or OnStar.

General safety considerations to prevent a motor vehicle theft:

- Always lock your vehicle, close all windows and sunroof, and take your keys.
- Never leave your vehicle running when unattended.
- Park in busy, well-lit areas. Pick a parking spot where there is a lot of activity. Auto thieves prefer breaking into cars in isolated areas.
- Install a vehicle tracking and location system that can be activated after the vehicle is reported as stolen.
- Do not leave spare keys in or on your vehicle. An experienced thief knows all the hiding places. Store spare keys elsewhere, such as your wallet or purse.

We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to download the free Rave Guardian mobile app to access valuable campus resources, including the ability to anonymously report suspicious activity to the Department of Public Safety. Search for Rave Guardian in the app store (iPhone or Android) on your mobile device. Download the app, follow the prompts, and enter your phone number and Cal State LA email.

Department of Public Safety: 323-343-3700
IF YOU ENCOUNTER PERSONS INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, DIAL 9-1-1

(This is a University-wide email. Please do not reply.)