

The message below is from 5th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams.
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A trend of robberies recently occurred in a small geographic area in Stevens Square and Whittier neighborhoods in Fifth Precinct, with a number of them involving the victims in or near their vehicles.

Thursday 11/24, 4:20 am, 19th St E and Stevens Av S.

The victim was walking with headphones in when a male suspect approached and robbed the victim at gunpoint.

Thursday 11/24, 7:13 pm, 22xx Blaisdell Av S.

The victim was in her vehicle parked in a ramp when a suspect approached and demanded her purse. He physically assaulted the victim.

Saturday 11/26 3 am, Franklin Av W/LaSalle Av.

The victim was in his car stopped at a red light when a suspect approached his vehicle and distracted him. Another suspect approached from a different angle and pulled the victim from the driver's seat, physically assaulted him, and stole his car.

Sunday 11/27, 6:30 pm, at 17xx 1st Av S.

The victim was exiting his car when a suspect approached and demanded his items. The suspect took the items from his hand and fled.

What you can do:

Keep your doors locked on your vehicle, whether you are driving, stopped at a light, or parked.

If someone approaches your car, if you are able to safely drive away do so.

Be aware that some suspects may be working in tandem and may use distraction techniques to catch the victim off guard.

Call 911 on suspicious activity at the time you see it. This includes helping others by calling 911 if you witness a crime or someone possibly in trouble.

When calling 911, describe the suspect to the best of your ability so officers know who to look for upon arrival. If the situation changes (such as an escalation or suspects leave), call 911 back.

If a vehicle is involved, if at all possible provide the license plate. If that is not possible, try to describe the vehicle, including anything that makes the vehicle stand out.

If the suspicious persons/vehicle leave, call 911 back and let them know.

Alert others to suspicious incidents if appropriate and if this can be done safely for all.

Trust your instincts: if something feels off, there is a reason for it.