

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT



Contact us:

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Covina Police Department

444. N. Citrus Ave.
Covina, CA 91723

Crime Prevention

626-384-5630
cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

Non-Emergency Dispatch

626-384-5808

Records Division

(626) 384-5656

Covina Jail

(626) 384-5638

Property / Evidence

(626) 384-5645

Traffic Division

(626) 384-5674

Detective Bureau

(626) 384-5628

Thieves Target SUV 3rd Row Seats

With increasing frequency, SUV owners are reporting the theft of the 3rd row seats from their vehicles. These crimes often occur when SUVs are parked at locations where the vehicle owner is likely to remain busy for a while, such as restaurants and movie theaters.

Most victims of 3rd row seat theft report no sign of forced entry to their vehicle. It may be that crafty thieves have figured out a way to get into locked vehicles without causing damage, but a more likely scenario is that thieves are finding unlocked vehicles, allowing them to complete their crime with minimal effort or obstruction.

Law abiding SUV owners may be in the market to replace their 3rd row seat due to damage at some



point, and clearly there is a market for these valuable car parts. Be cautious of who you purchase auto accessories from. Sellers should be licensed dealers.

To prevent this type of crime we recommend you take the usual precautions. Park in well lit, populated areas and lock your doors. It's also

recommended that you survey the area as you park your car. Third row seat thefts can only be completed by thieves in a vehicle capable of secreting their stolen property, such as a large truck or van. Persons loitering in parking lots without apparent legitimate purpose should be reported as suspicious to the Covina Police Department.

Many Serious Crimes In Progress go Unreported

Far too often, Covina Police Officers investigate crimes such as residential burglaries, and in the course of the investigation they encounter would be witnesses that dismissed or rationalized away their

observations. In one case, a neighbor reported seeing a stranger in the rear yard of the neighbor's home carrying electronics, and incorrectly assumed the stranger was likely an associate of the

homeowner. We don't want citizens to put themselves in harm's way, but trust your instincts, and report suspicious activity to the Covina Police Department, and give us a chance to investigate.

We're on the Web!
<http://covinaca.gov/city-departments/police>

Online reporting available today!

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Crime Classifications and Related Laws

Frustrated Covina residents often share a common question for police personnel at Neighborhood Watch Meetings and Community Events. “Why didn’t the officers make an arrest?” While situations may all be different, there are often legal commonalities that prevent police from making arrests, and hopefully this article will help answer the question.

Infractions (such as traffic violations) are punishable by fine, and require an officer to witness the event in order to take enforcement action via citation.

Misdemeanors (simple battery and most graffiti crimes among others) are punishable by fine and/or a County Jail time, and officers can only arrest for misdemeanors committed in their presence.

Felonies (such as burglary, robbery and others) are punishable by imprisonment in State Prison, and officers can arrest with probable cause.

A common scenario often frustrating for our citizens and officers alike involves examples of misdemeanors. A citizen driving through their neighborhood may call and report taggers defacing a wall with spray paint and officers are sent to respond. If responding officers see the fresh graffiti, and stop subjects matching the description a block away, they will need a witness willing to identify the responsible subjects and be willing to testify against the subjects (private person’s arrest) in order to complete the arrests.

There are a few exceptions, but not many, and these types of situations are equally frustrating to Covina residents and Covina police officers. The decision to get involved is a personal one, but certainly one that potentially brings tremendous benefit to our law-abiding community members.

CPD Quick Tips – Road Obstructions/Closures

Sometimes the reason for police vehicles obstructing the roadway is not obvious. For example, in the case of injury collisions, the accident investigation often continues long after the cars involved are removed from the roadway. As you approach these obstacles, we offer the following tips:

Police vehicle parked diagonally within a lane – This is a warning that traffic is narrowing ahead, and you should move to the available lane and proceed slowly and safely past the hazard, mindful of citizens, emergency workers and tow truck personnel.

Police vehicle parked perpendicular across roadway lanes - We rarely direct traffic into opposing traffic lanes. When you see this ahead, make a safe U-turn and find an alternate route because the road is closed ahead. When you see the police vehicle parked in this manner on the other side of the intersection, you should turn left or right as allowed by on scene personnel, and not continue through the intersection around the police vehicle.

Many people are tempted to try and see what’s going on as they pass by. This distraction makes an already hazardous scene more dangerous, and sometimes leads to traffic accidents. The Covina Police Department urges you to exercise common sense and awareness of your surroundings at all times while operating a motor vehicle.



Covina Police Crime Statistics – August 2012

		THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR TO DATE
ARRESTS	ADULT	214	1,838
	JUVENILE	23	261
BURGLARY	RESIDENTIAL	11	112
	COMMERCIAL	20	129
TRAFFIC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENTS	54	384
	INJURY ACCIDENTS	14	90



The Covina Police Department website offers an updated snapshot of where crimes are being reported within our city and surrounding areas. You can choose the types of crimes you want to view by checking and un-checking available boxes.

To view our interactive Crime Map click on the link or copy it into your web browser

<http://www.covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereports.com>

Citizens Wanted! New Citizens' Academy begins October 18th

The Citizens' Academy is a seven week program designed to educate Covina residents and business people about the inner-workings of the Covina Police Department. Students meet at the police department on Thursday nights from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and are provided instruction on a variety of topics by Covina Police Department Personnel. Topics of instruction include Criminal Law, Narcotics and Gangs, Recruiting and Training, and Internal Affairs among others. Students will participate in a patrol ride along, and range staff will instruct them on firearms safety and allow them to complete a range session using a department issued firearm.

The dates for this Citizens' Academy are:

- Thursday October 18th
- Thursday October 25th
- Thursday November 1st
- Thursday November 8th
- Thursday November 15th
- Thursday November 29th
- Thursday December 6th

***** OFF Thursday November 22nd for the Thanksgiving Holiday*****

For More information or to apply, contact Community Services Specialist Candace Bobkiewicz (626)384-5630, or by email at cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov