

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE IL

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Asian Business Owners Targeted for Residential Burglaries

Bloomington, IL - Over the previous four weeks, the Bloomington Police Department responded to three residential burglary calls on the east side of our city. In each of these cases, suspects have targeted Asian victims who are also small business owners in Bloomington and Normal. Additional information suggests that a group of Hispanic males, 30 to 40 years of age, are suspects in these cases. These residential burglaries are focused to the area between Veterans Parkway, Towanda Barnes Road, G.E. Road, and Empire St. The burglaries have occurred at unoccupied residences.

Here are several tips in regards to crime prevention:

- Remain cognizant of your surroundings.
- Pay attention when traveling and make sure you are not being followed.
- If you observe a suspicious vehicle in your neighborhood or near your business, call the police immediately.
- Home alarms and video surveillance equipment are good deterrents and helpful tools.
- Make your residence appear as if someone is home.
- Do not post travel plans on social media.
- Have a trusted neighbor keep an eye on your residence when you are away.

Due to the ongoing investigations, no additional information will be released at this time.

Anyone with information about these cases can contact Detective Pedro Diaz at <u>Pdiaz@cityblm.org</u> or 309-434-2532.

If you wish to submit a tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963, you can also send anonymous tips via your smartphone by texting the number 847411 and the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information, or email CIAU@cityblm.org.

The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

