

February 17, 2012

Dear Aldermen and Community Members,

Recently the news media has reported on a series of incidents which have occurred in the 14<sup>th</sup> District. These incidents are strong arm robberies – a victim's property is taken by an unarmed offender who uses force. As of February 15<sup>th</sup>, a total of 13 related incidents have occurred. These incidents have occurred since December 1, 2011, within the area of Ashland – Central Park and Division – Diversey. The 14<sup>th</sup> District, in conjunction with the Area 5 Bureau of Detectives, is working diligently to apprehend those responsible for these crimes.

### **About The Incidents**

On January 4, 2012, the 14<sup>th</sup> District and Area 5 Bureau of Detectives issued a Community Alert regarding these incidents. An additional Community Alert, with an updated description of the offenders, was issued January 31, 2012.

In these incidents, the offender approached the victim from behind and took their purse/bag, money and cell phone. Generally, the victims were White females; however an Asian woman and African-American woman also were targeted. The victims' ages range from 24–76 years old. The physical descriptions of the offenders provided by the victims have varied widely, adding to the difficulty in identifying any one offender.

The offenders have been variously described as African-American males, from 18–39 years old, 5'08"–6'06", 150–180 lbs. In three of the incidents, the offender is described as having a "dreadlock" hairstyle of varying length. In one of the incidents, a white 1990 Cadillac 4-door Sedan Deville was used by the offender as a getaway car, and was driven by another African-American male.

### **14<sup>th</sup> District Crime Trends**

Please note that despite the focus on these incidents, we have experienced a **36% reduction** in strong arm robberies *within this very area* as compared to two years ago. Throughout the entirety of the 14<sup>th</sup> District, there has been a **14% reduction** in strong arm robberies between 2009 and 2011.

We are grateful that the media has chosen to highlight these incidents and the Community Alert issued by the Chicago Police Department. This can only serve to raise awareness and help the community better protect itself and prevent further crimes. I have attached a copy of the latest Community Alert for your information and distribution.

I assure you that the Chicago Police Department is applying appropriate resources – both patrol and investigative – in our efforts to prevent additional crimes and to identify the offenders in these 13 incidents.

As always, we urge residents to take precaution when traveling in the late evening and early in the early morning hours. We encourage anyone with information about these incidents to contact CPD Area 5 Bureau of Detectives at 312-746-8362.

Sincerely,

Commander Linda Flores  
14th District