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708.386.3800

Woman robbed in alley; incident similar to four others

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A fifth incident involving nighttime robberies of lone female residents has Oak Park police asking residents to be on the look out for suspicious individuals and vehicles – especially in alleys – and not to hesitate to call 9-1-1 if something seems out of the ordinary.

The latest incident occurred at about 8 p.m., Thurs., April 28, in the 300 block of North Oak Park Avenue. The victim, in her mid-20s, had parked her car on Superior Street and was robbed as she walked down the alley approaching the rear door of a church.

As in four similar incidents, the offender approached from behind and grabbed the victim around the neck. He took a wallet from her purse and fled. No injuries were reported.

This latest incident was not far from the Lake Street corridor where four similar nighttime robberies of lone women occurred. These incidents occurred on March 30 in the 200 block of Lake Street, April 2 near Lake Street and Austin Boulevard, April 4 in the 200 block of North Oak Park Avenue and April 19, in the 200 block of South Harvey Avenue. These four incidents occurred between 11:40 p.m. and 12:45 a.m., no serious injuries were reported and no weapon was seen or implied.

In each incident, the suspect is described as an African-American male in his 20s, about five feet 10 inches to six feet tall with a medium build. In the first three incidents, he was believed to have been wearing a light colored jacket with a black knit hat. In the latest two incidents, the offender was described similarly, but with short hair and wearing a dark, possibly hooded sweatshirt and dark pants.

Police were on the scene in less than two minutes of when the incident was reported, suggesting that the robber had a vehicle parked nearby. In the previous incident, neighbors reported seeing a man enter a light-colored, newer-model Ford SUV and driving westbound on Pleasant Street.

While Police cannot say for sure that the assailant is the same in all five incidents, the similarities suggest he could be.

Police will continue to have increased patrols in the area as the investigation continues and until the offender is apprehended. Anyone with information regarding these incidents is urged to contact the Oak Park Police Department at 708.386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us. Information can be provided anonymously via telephone to 708.434.1636 or online at www.oak-park.us/police.

In the meantime, Police are urging residents, especially females, to avoid being out alone after dark. Residents also can call 708.386.3800 from dusk to dawn and request a Police escort.

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