



# Hermosa Beach Police Department

## Neighborhood Watch Bulletin

### March 20th-26th, 2017

409	Calls for Service	3	Misdemeanor Arrests	3	DUI Arrests
50	Reports Taken	0	Felony Arrests	7	Public Intoxication Arrests
34	Moving Violations				

The following is not a complete listing of crimes committed in Hermosa Beach during the stated timeframe. Crimes included below are PROPERTY RELATED and are provided to inform our residents about preventable crimes that may be impacted by hardening targets such as locking vehicles and residences. For a more extensive list of incidents in Hermosa Beach during this timeframe please visit [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com).

AREA 1

- 487(A)PC THEFT** Between 03/21/17 @ 0955 - 3/21/17 @ 1045 200 BLK PIER AV  
A vehicle was parked on the street and was entered by unknown means and stole computer.
- 459PC BURGLARY** Between 03/22/17 @ 1530 - 03/22/17 @ 1600 00 BLK THE STRAND  
An unknown suspect opened an unlocked sliding glass door facing the strand and removed an ipad and cell phone from the counter.
- 484PC THEFT** Between 02/10/17 @ 0001 - 3/10/17 @ 2359 00 BLK 6TH ST  
A bicycle was taken from the secured side yard of a residence.
- 487PC THEFT** Between 03/25/17 @ 1515 - 3/25/17 @ 1600 1100 BLK THE STRAND  
A bicycle was locked and suspect cut the lock and rode off on the bicycle. Suspect seen by witness.
- 484PC THEFT** Between 03/19/17 @ 1100 - 3/20/17 @ 0430 PIER PZ & THE STRAND  
A bicycle was locked to a light pole, lock was cut and bike stolen. Suspect is seen on plaza surveillance.

AREA 2

- 532(A)PC EMBEZZLEMENT** Between 03/15/17 @ 1200 - 3/17/17 @ 1600 100 BLK 29TH ST  
Real estate agent's e-mail gets hacked and asks victim to wire funds to a bank account in a different state. Victim wires funds without knowing that the e-mail account was hacked and loses the funds.
- 484GPC THEFT USE ACCESS CARD** Between 03/16/17 @ 2041 - 3/17/17 @ 1853 00 BLK 19TH ST  
An unknown person attempted to use the victim's credit card information to make a large purchase at an Apple Store. The purchase was denied. Victim is in possession of the credit card.

AREA 3

- 484PC THEFT** Between 03/19/17 @ 1000 - 3/20/17 @ 0900 1000 BLK PROSPECT AV  
Unknown suspect(s) entered the victim's vehicle and took property without permission. Unknown if the vehicle was locked or unlocked or if the suspect(s) reached into the window that was partially down and unlocked the vehicle.
- 476PC FORGERY** Between 03/16/17 @ 1000 - 0000 1200 BLK 2ND ST  
An unknown suspect tried to cash a fraudulent check from the victim's account. Check was not cashed.
- 487(A)PC THEFT** Between 02/27/17 @ 1800 - 3/01/17 @ 0800 1200 BLK 20TH PL  
An unlocked vehicle was entered and items were stolen.
- 487(A)PC THEFT** Between 03/22/17 @ 1800 - 3/23/17 @ 0930 900 BLK 15TH PL  
A vehicle was entered by unknown means. Multiple items were stolen.
- 530.5(A)PC ID THEFT** Between 03/06/17 @ 1200 - 3/23/17 @ 1200 1100 BLK 6TH ST  
An unknown person opened a credit account and made a purchase in the victim's name without the victim's permission.
- 484PC THEFT** Between 03/23/17 @ 1300 - 3/23/17 @ 1315 400 BLK PACIFIC COAST HY  
Victim left the vehicle unlocked and entered the store. Upon return items were missing from vehicle.
- 484(A)PC THEFT** Between 03/19/17 @ 1900 - 3/20/17 @ 0800 500 BLK GENTRY ST  
An unlocked vehicle was entered. Pink slip and registration were stolen.

**This Week's Prevention Tip:**

**Tax season is in full swing. If you're thinking about hiring someone to prepare your taxes, there are some things you should know. See the following pages for more information on the top scams to be aware of this tax season.**



# Protect Your Identity

Protect your identity this tax season. Here's what to look out for.

Tax season is like Christmas for cyber criminals. Tax-related identity theft, phone calls from fake IRS agents and email phishing schemes are among the tax scams the IRS warns taxpayers to keep an eye on this tax season.

If you opt to use a company or tax expert to help with your taxes, take extra time to make sure they're legit and up to the task. The IRS' three-step guide [available here](#) can help you choose a tax professional. As a taxpayer, you are legally responsible for what is on your tax return, even if it is prepared by someone else. That means scams like these can lead to significant penalties and interest for taxpayers, as well as possible criminal prosecution.

## Here are the top scams to be aware of this tax season:

- **Identity theft:** The No. 1 scam this year is tax-related identity theft, which the IRS defines as when someone uses a taxpayer's stolen Social Security number to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund.
- **Phone scams:** Aggressive calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents is a persistent problem. The IRS has seen a surge in phone scams recently as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation, and other things.
- **Phishing:** Be leery of fake emails and websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will not send you an email about a bill or refund out of the blue. Don't click on one claiming to be from the IRS.
- **Return preparer fraud:** While the vast majority of tax professionals provide honest high-quality service, dishonest preparers set up shop each filing season to perpetrate refund fraud, identity theft and other scams.
- **Hiding money or income offshore:** The recent string of successful enforcement actions against offshore tax cheats — and the financial organizations that help them — proves it's unwise to hide money and income offshore.
- **Inflated refund claims:** Be wary of anyone who asks you to sign a blank return, promises a big refund, or charges a fee based on a percentage of the refund.

- **Fake charities:** Double-check charities with names that are similar to nationally known organizations.
- **Falsely padding deductions:** This item, a newer scam than others on the list, consists of inflating deductions or expenses on the return to pay less taxes or receive a bigger refund. The IRS warns taxpayers that they should think twice before overstating their charitable contribution expenses or padding their business expenses, as well as avoid claiming credits they are not entitled to, such as the EITC and the child tax credit.
- **Excessive claims for business credits:** This expands on last year's "excessive claims for fuel credits." This scam involves two specific false claims for credits: fraudulent claims for refunds of fuel excise tax and bogus claims for the research tax credit.
- **Abusive tax shelters:** When in doubt, seek an independent opinion about any complex product you are offered.
- **Frivolous tax arguments:** Don't use frivolous arguments to paying your taxes. Promoters of frivolous schemes encourage taxpayers to make unreasonable and outlandish claims to avoid paying the taxes they owe. The penalty for filing a frivolous tax return is \$5,000.