



B obbery

B urglary

T heft

S u m m i t



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Robbery ♦ Burglary ♦ Theft



Superintendent Philip J. Cline



Deputy Superintendent Hiram Grau
Bureau of Investigative Services



Chief Maria Maher
Detective Division

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Building Relationships



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Joint Initiatives



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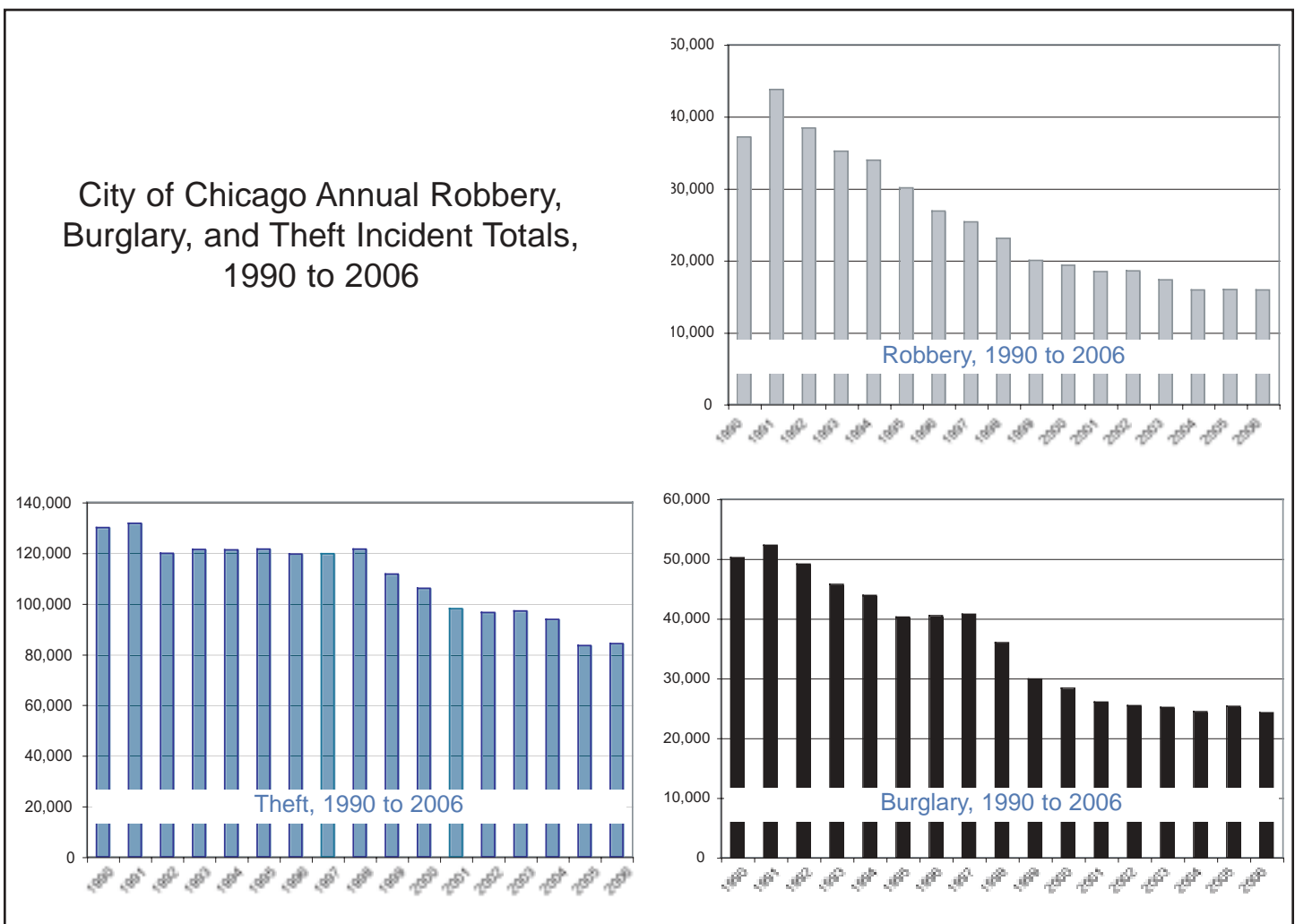
Robbery • Burglary • Theft

Communication, Cooperation, Coordination

Like most index crimes, the numbers of robbery, burglary, and theft incidents citywide have followed an overall downward trend since peaking in 1991. In fact, by 2006 robberies were down a remarkable 63.7% from 1991, while burglaries were down 53.6% and thefts were down 36.1%. More recent trends, however, indicate the number of reported robberies, burglaries, and thefts have remained relatively stable, with only small changes. With that in mind, Superintendent Philip J. Cline recognized the importance of reevaluating the crime-fighting and investigative strategies employed by the Chicago Police Department in an effort to secure continual decreases in robberies, burglaries, and thefts citywide, while at the same time identifying and charging offenders who commit these types of crimes.

In March 2007, the Chicago Police Department hosted the Robbery, Burglary, and Theft Summit. Its purpose was to share information and strategies with personnel from the Bureau of Patrol and the Detective Division pertaining to ways in which patrol officers and detectives can work together to identify and charge robbery, burglary, and theft offenders. As stressed by Deputy Superintendent Hiram Grau and echoed by Chief Maria Maher, these types of offenders, who account for a large proportion of crime in Chicago, can be successfully taken off the streets through improved communication, cooperation and coordination.

This document summarizes the information and best practices highlighted during the Summit.



Building Relationships

Building strong relationships between district personnel and the Area detectives is important. Patrol officers play a crucial role in identifying suspects, locating witnesses, and documenting key aspects of incidents because they are the preliminary investigators. Additionally, district patrol officers are more familiar with the day-to-day events occurring in the districts, and can provide detectives with timely neighborhood information. Thus, the direct benefits of increased communication and cooperation between patrol officers and detectives are many, including increases in arrest and clearance rates, and ultimately, in reductions of crime. More importantly, these benefits can be secured with little or no impact on manpower.

Does this really work? The Area 4 Detective Division RBT Section is just one example of how communication leads to cooperation. After meeting and forging relationships with district personnel, detectives from the Area 4 Detective Division started conducting decoy missions with district patrol officers. This relationship resulted in detectives clearing up multiple cases of robbery, burglary and thefts. Based on the experiences in Area 4 Detective Division, several best practices were noted:

- ☑ Patrol officers should share information about incidents occurring in their districts across watches so that officers in the district are aware of potential problem areas or persons of interest.
- ☑ Patrol officers and detectives should have up-to-date information on wanted offenders in their particular areas or districts. Such information can assist the Detective Division in charging offenders with other crimes that they may have committed.
- ☑ Detectives should develop a rapport with patrol officers and other district personnel. These individuals are more familiar with the neighborhood and district gang activity. Such information may help when trying to identify suspects or crime patterns. For instance, district personnel may have an informant that could assist in providing information when only an offender's nickname is available.



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Decoy Missions

Using an undercover car, property is placed in the vehicle and then the vehicle is parked, usually in a location where offenders will have a hard time fleeing. To prevent offenders from breaking the window, officers should roll the window down and supplement with a plastic window cover. Officers then conduct a surveillance of the vehicle and wait until the offender enters the vehicle and removes the property. Because offenders committing this type of crime are often those who commit residential and retail burglaries, these missions represent an opportunity to prevent similar crimes in the future or clear up multiple cases. A key component to operating this mission is that it is videotaped. This makes the case stronger when pursued in court.

Robbery ♦ Burglary ♦ Theft

Joint Initiatives

Joint initiatives between patrol officers and detectives can result in successful outcomes as it pertains to multiple incident investigations and clearances. Below are some best practices for conducting and implementing joint initiatives based on Area 4 Detective Division experiences working with District 012. The activities below, however, should be recognized as good practices for all patrol officers.

- ☑ Patrol supervisors should make it a priority to assign certain officers to focus exclusively on robberies, burglaries or thefts. This ensures consistency in the officers responding to these calls.
- ☑ Patrol officers should acquire knowledge of, and use, the investigative tools available through the data warehouse and I-CLEAR.
- ☑ Patrol officers should develop a rapport with the Detective Division while investigating a robbery, burglary, or theft pattern. Detectives can assist patrol officers in accessing additional databases.
- ☑ District officers should keep a robbery log that lists every robbery incident that has occurred.
- ☑ Robbery patterns, offender information, and vehicle information can be shared with other district personnel by putting a notification in the Commanding Officer's (C.O.) book.
- ☑ Patrol officers should conduct a canvas of the immediate area to identify victims and possible witnesses.
- ☑ Patrol officers should conduct thorough victim and witness interviews because the information gathered can help identify suspects. For example, information gathered can assist in the identification of a vehicle that was used by the offender when the crime was committed or better insight in to any patterns in the victim's behavior or personal habits that may help identify the offender.
- ☑ Patrol officers should notify the Detective Division immediately if a video of the incident may have been captured by privately owned surveillance equipment. Officers should also notify the owner of the equipment that a copy of the video will be needed and request a copy to ensure that no videos are lost due to recycling of the camera.
- ☑ Patrol officers should also request copies of videos from the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) if there is a POD in the immediate area.
- ☑ Patrol officers assigned to work with the Detective Division on joint initiatives should review case reports to ensure incidents are being properly classified. This will help the identification of possible patterns occurring in the district and it will give officers information on every active robbery that occurs in the district.
- ☑ Detectives should meet periodically with the patrol officers assigned to joint initiatives, Tactical Lieutenants, Watch Commanders, and the District Commanders to review every robbery committed in the district.



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Information Available to Patrol Officers		Information Available to Detectives
E-Track	Investigative Alerts	Secretary of State data
Contact Cards	Victim search	Accurant System
Arrests	Offender search	Cook County Sheriff data
Incidents		

Ruse Entry Burglary

Ruse entry burglaries occur when Eastern European Travelers (see description below) drive through residential neighborhoods targeting elderly persons. They approach the victim and claim to be utility workers, city employees, etc. The “face man” who greets the victim will divert the victim’s attention while one or more additional suspects enters the home and commit the theft, generally taking only cash and jewelry or other objects that fit in their pockets. If the accomplices are unable to locate where the victim keeps the valuables, a common tactic used is asking the victim for change of a large denomination bill. Losses in these crimes are staggering, with dollar amounts into the hundreds of thousands in some cases. It is not uncommon for victims to lose their entire life savings.

Six common characteristics of ruse entry burglaries as described by victims:

- (1) Offenders will appear to the victims as being White or Hispanic males.
- (2) Offenders may be described as speaking a foreign language (Romany).
- (3) Offenders may use two-way radios to give them a more legitimate look.
- (4) Offenders may pretend that they have a mutual acquaintance.
- (5) Offenders will be very polite.
- (6) When asked if something was out of place, the victims or witnesses will typically say they noticed a new pickup truck or van in front of the victim’s home that did not have the look of a legitimate contractor. The vehicles used by the offenders often have temporary plates or the front and/or back license plates are bent down.



Eastern European Travelers are known to be a closed society, which chooses to be non-conforming. The organization consists of a “face man” who is typically attractive or pleasant in appearance. The face man is the person who will meet and distract the victim. “The searcher” is the individual who will search for items to steal after the face man signals him. The getaway driver has a dual role, he not only drives the get away car but he also serves as a look out. As with any other group or society, the Eastern European Travelers have a hierarchy. At the top is the city boss (Rom-Barro), followed by Gypsy council (Kris), and Barro (Family head).

One way the Department can begin to address this type of crime is by first identifying how often and when it occurs. Patrol officers should ensure that they are classifying the incident correctly. Detectives have noticed that these types of confidence crimes are often classified as 0650 (home invasions) when they should be classified as 1130 (con-game or fraud).

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or
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Pawnshops and Secondhand Dealers

Pawnshops are regulated by the Illinois State Statute 205 ILCS 510.0 and by the City of Chicago Municipal Code 4-240-070. Secondhand dealers, also known as buy and sell shops, are also regulated under the City of Chicago Municipal Code 4-264. There is no state statute that regulates secondhand dealers. The major difference between pawnshops and secondhand dealers is that secondhand dealers cannot receive property that will be used as a collateral item for a loan.

Maintenance of records by pawnshops is required under the state and local codes. A printed record must contain the pawnshop's or pledger's name, home address, date of birth, social security number, gender and height and weight. Each transaction must have a pawn or pledge number that identifies the particular transaction. Each transaction must also contain an accurate description of the article, time it was taken in, amount of money that was loaned and the interest to be paid on the given loan.

Each article pawned or pledged will be described by the brand name, model and serial number. If available, pawnbrokers must describe any other types of identifiers, (e.g. engraved names, or markings). Every pawnbroker shall require two forms of personal identification. Examples of accepted forms of identification are state driver's licenses, state identification cards, and passports. The pawnshop or pledger must sign and receive a copy of his or her transaction. Any property that is pawned or pledged may not be sold or removed for at least 30 calendar days. Property that is pawned/pledged must remain for two business days, excluding Saturday, Sundays and holidays, before it can be redeemed by the pawnshop or pledger. Pawnshops must permit inspection of their records by any Chicago Police Officer, Department of Revenue or Department of Consumer Service Investigator. Pawnshops are also required to report to the Superintendent of Police, by U.S. mail, all of their transactions at the end of the day.

Patrol officers and detectives should note that the following information is available via the mainframe:

- Use the HDA6 screen if you are trying to query a suspected pawnshop's name.
- Use the HDA3 screen to retrieve information on brand name, model and features of the property. If the property was pawned or pledged at a pawnshop, a transaction number will appear under the reference number. If the property is reported lost or stolen, a LEADS number will appear.
- Use the HDA1 screen to obtain information about property that has been reported lost, stolen or pawned. If the property is reported lost or stolen it will provide the date, time and location of incident, along with a description of the property. If the property was pawned, it will provide the name of the pawnshop and the related transaction number.
- Use the HD83 screen to get information about what jurisdiction the property is reported lost or stolen from and the case report number. When using the HD83 screen, the reference codes from the Illinois LEADS reference manual must be used.



Additional information is also available through training bulletin ETB# 07-01 or by contacting:

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Latent Prints and Forensics

Forensics Services and the Latent Print Section play key roles in the investigation and clearance of crime incidents. Multiple crimes are often cleared from a single item of evidence whose identification and/or collection results from the first responder's diligence. In fact, every crime scene has the potential of having probative evidence (i.e., evidence that could identify the offender). Probative evidence can be, but is not limited to, fingerprints, tools or clothing left behind by the offender, bodily fluids, semen, blood, hair, etc. Many crime scenes have physical evidence that indicates the presence of the offender, which is why the preliminary officer is so important. The decisions that patrol officers and supervisors make at crime scenes with regard to evidence preservation and notification ultimately impacts the success rate of suspect identification.

Different Types of Evidence

Associative evidence is evidence that can connect a person to a place or to another person.

Reconstructive evidence is evidence that enables one to recreate the incident as it may have occurred.

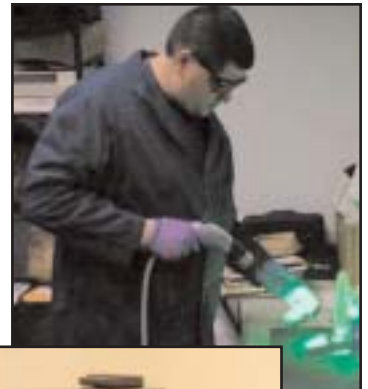
Porous evidence allows fingerprint residue to be absorbed into the item when it is touched (e.g. paper, cardboard, raw wood).

Non-porous evidence is when the fingerprint residue rests on top of the items that were touched or handled (e.g. glass, metal, varnished wood, plastic).

When Evidence Technicians respond to a crime scene, the victim sometimes relates pertinent information regarding the probative evidence. The Evidence Technicians will then evaluate the on-scene items. Although not all evidence is suitable for latent print processing, the Evidence Technicians should ultimately make the decision of not processing a crime scene. Even evidence that has been handled by patrol officers or victims can be of value. Latent examiners often identify prints on evidence that can be used to exclude the victim or police officers and identify suspects.

When conducting preliminary investigations of crime scenes, patrol officers should:

- ☑ Secure the crime scene and protect any type of evidence found.
- ☑ Try to locate any pry marks or tool marks on the door or window frames.
- ☑ Locate any footprints or sole imprints in areas around doors or buildings.
- ☑ Look for broken glass in or around the crime scene, which may be able to provide latent prints or fiber traces from offender clothing.
- ☑ Look for blood around the area of forced entry, food or beverages that may have been consumed by the offenders, items that may be left at the scene by the offenders, or items that victims are unable to identify. These may link offenders to the crimes scenes through DNA.
- ☑ Ask victims if they have noticed items that may have been moved by the offenders.
- ☑ Locate and inventory surveillance equipment that is found on-scene.
- ☑ Relay any relevant information to evidence technicians, detectives, and supervisors by including this information in the case reports.
- ☑ Ensure elimination prints are taken either on-scene or at the police facility.



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Multiple Clearances

Robberies, burglaries, and thefts often involve the same offenders. Therefore, it is important that patrol officers and detectives be familiar with other, similar cases in their districts. One way of doing this is to identify the characteristics and current status of robberies, burglaries, and thefts that have occurred in the district. For instance, patrol officers and detectives should know how often these types of crimes occur, when they occur (i.e., time of day), and where. Moreover, patrol officers and detectives should be notified as cases are cleared. Supervisors should work with officers to identify major strategies for clearing these crimes.

When completing a General Offense Case Report, is imperative that patrol officers ensure that:

- All victim information is complete, including the victim's name, age, race, sex, home address, work address, parent or guardian address (where appropriate), and all corresponding telephone numbers (e.g., home, work, cellular, parents, etc.).
- The offender's physical description is complete. The patrol officer should list any scars, marks, tattoos or deformities, the type of clothing the offender wore, if the offender had an accent or speech impediment, or if the offender had any unique mannerisms (e.g. twitch, limp, unusual walk).
- The elements of the crime are clearly documented. For instance, patrol officers should document whether the offender implied or displayed a weapon. If the weapon was displayed, include any details about the weapon the victim can remember.
- Patrol officers should describe in detail all property items missing. Photographs or pictures of the stolen items should also be located and secured. When property details are not immediately available, patrol officers should instruct the victim to contact the appropriate detective Area with additional information or serial numbers.

Call Detectives As Soon As Possible When:

- ♦ The victim is hospitalized
- ♦ A bank robbery or commercial robbery has been committed.
- ♦ A substantial loss is reported.
- ♦ The crime or victim is newsworthy.
- ♦ The victim states that they are from out of town.
- ♦ The offender is captured on camera.
- ♦ The incident may be part of a known pattern.

When taken into custody, the offender should be booked, processed and brought to the detective Area as quickly as possible. The officers should also take victim and witnesses to the Area. At the Area, patrol officers should start looking for other crimes that may fit the offender's modus operandi.

Once the offender has been arrested, the patrol officers and detectives should focus on charging and convicting the offender. Preparation for felony review *and* the trial should begin from the moment of the crime's discovery and continue until the actual courtroom testimony. Officers and detectives should remember that the trial, rather than the arrest, is the conclusion of their work. By focusing not just on the arrest, but also the conviction of offenders, there will be a greater likelihood that the offender will be successfully prosecuted.

Finally, Detectives should remember that tools exist that can assist in identification of crime patterns and multiple clearances. The Multiple Clearing Assistance Tool (MCAT) is one such tool. The MCAT was developed to identify additional open cases that an offender may have committed.

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Video Enhancement

Video enhancement is intended to take a captured still picture and make it **Bigger, Better and Brighter**. Video enhancement does not change the material characteristics of the video source, but rather enhances the video picture quality. Having localized video enhancement capabilities provides the means for a quick turnaround. This translates to getting results back into the field in a timely manner.

Existing legal precedents regarding video enhancement is based on evidentiary “authenticity.” Evidentiary authenticity is determined by two methods:

- (1) Pictorial Testimony: Victim/Witnesses testify that the video files accurately reflect the events depicted.
- (2) Silent Witness: The reliability of the process used in production of evidence can be submitted to the court as verification of the video’s value.

The 16th District’s video enhancement equipment has been used by units throughout the city to assist investigations. In fact, 66 percent of video enhancements conducted to date have been for units outside the 16th District.

Video Enhancement in Action

Video enhancement has allowed officers to not only identify potential suspects, but also assist in identifying forensic evidence. For example, the pictures below depict a robbery of a convenience store that was captured via the store’s surveillance equipment. The offender could not be recognized because of poor camera placement, but the pictorial evidence of where the offender placed his palmprints assisted evidence technicians in identifying locations of forensic evidence.



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District 016-Implementing Best Practices

District 016 has implemented several best practices to address robbery, burglary, and theft crime incidents. Below are just a few of the other activities they have implemented.

- District administrators have reallocated personnel to allow more efficient use to address robberies, burglaries, and thefts occurring in the district.
- A database was developed to track robberies occurring in the District and to assist in the identification of patterns and offenders, and increase multiple clearances.
- A list of pawnshops and their locations is maintained by district personnel.
- Supervisors debrief patrol officers after an investigation to keep officers up-to-date on robbery incidents.

Bank Robberies

Bank robberies in Chicago hit a record high in 2006. The spike in bank robberies has been attributed to more banks being built, many of which are located in local grocery stores; longer bank hours; fewer bank guards; and an increase in the number of serial bank robbers committing four or more robberies.

The following are useful investigative tools when dealing with bank robberies:

- Use the data warehouse, such as the contact card database search, to identify possible suspects.
- Create a gallery of surveillance photos to post on CLEARPath "Wanted" website and in Daily Bulletins.
- Distribute Detective Division crime pattern bulletins.
- Distribute "Wanted" posters to district personnel and the neighborhoods where the robberies have occurred.
- E-mail surveillance photos so they may be distributed to field personnel as soon as they become available.
- Use News Affairs to facilitate the televising of surveillance photos of offenders and requests to the public for tips and leads as to the identity of a wanted offender.



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Different Types of Bank Robberies

Hold up: The offender walks up to the teller and presents a demand note (usually indicating that he/she is armed) then casually leaves the bank with the money.

Armed: The offender approaches a teller and announces a robbery, and shows the teller a handgun, usually in the waist band of pants.

Take over robberies: One or more offenders enters a bank brandishing guns, herds employees and customers into a side or back room and then cleans out the drawers or demands that the manager open the safe.

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SOLVING CRIME ONE FINGERPRINT AT A TIME



The Latent Fingerprint Unit has been successful in assisting the Detective Division in apprehending wanted offenders, and linking these individuals to multiple violent and property crimes. Using the latest technology, Latent Examiners have been able to link fingerprint lifts obtained by the Evidence Technicians at the crime scene with the fingerprints of subjects previously arrested.

In one case, the Area 3 Detective Division requested that the Latent Fingerprint Unit evaluate fingerprint evidence recovered in an armed robbery of a grocery store on the north side. An armed robbery crew responsible for over 30 robberies was terrorizing small business owners on the North side. A suspect had just robbed a store owner at gunpoint. The suspect emptied the contents of a donation jar as he exited the store. The store owner related that information to the responding evidence technician and detectives. The evidence technician processed the jar for ridge impressions on the scene, lifted the impressions and the detectives ensured that the fingerprint evidence was forwarded immediately for evaluation. Latent examiners utilized the forensic digital workstation to capture and enhance the impression. The impression was then submitted to AFIS and a suspect was identified from the jar. Detectives were notified of the suspect information and the initial identification led to the apprehension of several suspects involved in the robberies.

Fingerprint on Katrina jar snares suspects

By David Heinzmann
Tribune staff reporter

After an armed robber took the contents of the cash register at a North Side grocery store, he reached for the jar containing coins and bills offered by customers for Hurricane Katrina survivors.

The robber made off with the money, but left his fingerprint on the jar. The slip-up led police to a suspect and two alleged accomplices, who they believe may be connected to up to 30 recent armed robberies in Chicago.

Police on Monday charged Darryl Cates, 47, of the 100 block West 87th Street with 15 counts of armed robbery; Leonard Askew, 35, of the 1200 block of South Komensky Avenue was charged with seven counts; and Bonita Wright, 38, of the 2300 block of South State Street was charged with two counts of armed robbery, police said. Several robberies are still under investigation.

Convenience and video rental stores, and other small businesses in the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and West Loop neighborhoods have been robbed, police said.

Armed with a gun, the robbers would pose as customers and then round up employees and customers and herd them into a back room before making off with cash from the register, said Lt. William Dunn, who supervises Belmont Area robbery and property crimes detectives.

Abunaser Zaidullah, owner of the Lincoln Foods in the 2500 block of Lincoln Avenue, said he was alone in the store when two men came in and one of them pointed a gun at him and took the money from the cash register. While Zaidullah was lying on the floor, he saw the two men take money from two plastic jars he was using to collect money for Hurricane Katrina relief.

"I told the police that both took the money from out of the jars and they had to open the lid to do it," Zaidullah said.

Zaidullah estimates they took \$1,200 from the cash register and \$300 to \$300 from the jars.

Forensic testing of the print left in the Sept. 8 robbery of Lincoln Foods in the 2300 block of Lincoln Avenue matched the print to Cates. When police looked into his background, they found a connection to Wright, who had been identified by witnesses in two other robberies.

As police began searching for Cates and Wright, they also got a break that led them to Askew after a store in the 400 block of North State was robbed a second time.

Police arrested Askew on



Askew



Cates



Wright

Sept. 22 at the Harold Ickes public housing complex. Askew gave a statement about the crimes, Dunn said, and police got a tip that Cates and Wright might be at 51st Street and Indiana Avenue.

Cates was arrested Thursday on the South Side by University of Illinois at Chicago police, who were also working on the case because of a robbery of a 7-Eleven on the Chicago campus, Dunn said.

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