

CRIME ALERT

Two armed robberies in Northrop

June 11, 2009

Facts:

There were two separate armed robberies about an hour apart on Friday evening, June 5, in Northrop Neighborhood.

In the first incident, about 9:20 p.m., a teenage boy and girl walking westbound on E. 44th St. were robbed at gunpoint by a male in his 20s. He forced the pair to walk into an alley near 44th and 12th Ave. S., where he robbed the boy of cash, an iPod, and documents. After making the boy walk away from the scene, the suspect unsuccessfully attempted to commit a sexual act with the girl. Because she resisted and yelled loudly, the man got frightened, grabbed her bag, and ran off. The boy, who had walked back out onto E. 44th St., found someone with a phone and was able to call the police. There were no injuries. The victims described the suspect as a black male about 23-27 years of age, 5'5" to 5'8", medium build, and wearing medium-length braids, a black windbreaker-style jacket, an orange and white striped shirt, and black jeans.

In the second incident, about 10:30 p.m., a couple was walking eastbound from E. 44th St. just beyond Elliot Ave. Four youths on bikes rode past them down 10th Ave., circled the block, and came up the alley between 10th and Elliot Aves. The pair felt they were in danger and started to run. The suspects chased them. Two of the boys jumped off their bikes and attacked the husband, punching and kicking him, and knocked him to the ground. His wife ran down the street. One of the youths, who had a handgun, grabbed her. He took her money, jumped on his bicycle and rode off with the other suspects northbound on 10th Ave. The victims were unable to provide specific information about the suspects.

Minneapolis Robbery and Sex Crimes units are continuing their investigations and patrol officers are on the alert in the area. The two incidents do not appear to be related other than the location and time.

What you can do:

Increase your use of good crime prevention techniques: awareness, alertness and avoidance. When walking:

- *Be aware of your surroundings.*
- Be especially alert to any activity near you.
- Be alert to people loitering near your parking area.
- Avoid secluded, poorly-lit areas at night.
- Plan and use the safest and most direct routes. Look confident and purposeful.
- Carry your keys and money in a pocket, not in a purse or wallet.
- If you must carry a handbag, keep it next to your body, with the flap or clasp towards you. Don't keep a wallet in a back pocket.
- Become familiar with businesses that are open late.
- Walk with a friend if possible, particularly at night.
- You do not have to respond when someone asks you for directions, the time, money, a cigarette, etc.
- If someone is following you in a car, turn around and walk quickly in the opposite direction. Try to get the license plate number and a description of the car and driver. Call 911.
- If someone is following you on foot, turn around to let the person know you see them. Immediately cross the street and walk or run toward a place where there are other people. Call the police or get someone else to call for you.

If you have any questions, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Sue Roethele (612-673-2839 or sue.roethele@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.

