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Statement Regarding Internet Video of Auto Break-In

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The San Francisco Police Department has been made aware of a video on social media depicting an auto break-in, and alleges that police “sit back and watch” while it occurs. We have located the incident report, and below is a summary of what occurred.

On August 21, 2023, at approximately 6:40 pm, a San Francisco Police Sergeant assigned to Northern Station was conducting proactive patrols in the area of Alamo Square Park.

The Sergeant was flagged down by a bystander regarding an auto break-in that was occurring near the intersection of Steiner and Hayes Streets. The Sergeant immediately drove to the area where the incident was occurring and saw the suspect attempting to flee to his waiting vehicle. The Sergeant activated his emergency lights to try and stop the suspect. The suspect dropped the items he was attempting to steal and fled the scene in his vehicle at a high rate of speed, driving past the sergeant, who was facing the opposite direction.

The SFPD Sergeant quickly turned his patrol vehicle around to attempt to stop the fleeing suspect, but the suspect had already fled the scene and the Sergeant and other responding officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

Due to the Sergeant's proactive patrol of a known vehicle break-in hot spot, he was able to interrupt an auto break in which was occurring. This Sergeant's proactive police work ensured that this family did not lose anything when their vehicle was broken into, and no one was injured.

The San Francisco Police Department remains committed to addressing the widespread auto break-ins that occur throughout our city. We need your help to reduce and prevent these crimes. Don't leave any suitcases or bags in your car, especially those containing electronics, wallets, or other valuables. Be aware of your surroundings, and ensure there is nothing of value visible in your car.

This incident remains an open and active investigation, anyone with information is asked to contact the SFPD at 415-575-4444 or text a tip to TIP411 and begin the message with SFPD. You may remain anonymous.

Case# 230596029

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