

## **Policy Team Document**

Our team decided to work on the issues of bikes being stolen and cars being hit inside of parking garages. We decided to pick this issue because some of our members have had their cars hit in garages and parts of their bikes stolen. A study of United Educators claims reveals that parking lots are one of an institution's riskiest locations, resulting in costly injuries to individuals and damage to property totaling an astonishing \$32 million over a recent five-year period.

We surmise that if some of the members of our group have had this issue then many other students have had the same issue as well. Our solution to this problem is to add cameras near dorm bike racks and inside parking garages.

In the perspective of the student, having items and or your property stolen without any resolve may lead to feelings of distrust, anger, and hopelessness. In addition to these new predicaments, students are already dealing with other stressors such as school, work, or a handful of other unforeseen issues. As mentioned previously, having your items stolen may cause an individual to develop negative feelings towards their school and or distrust in their peers. Similarly, at a university in South Africa, approximately above 60% of non-victims and victims of crime experience anxiety while they are on-campus (Ross and Rasool 8). On the other hand, having property stolen or damaged can cause individuals to have additional expenses in addition to college tuition and fees, which they may not be able to afford; leading the individual to have more hassles and anger because the victim is left to cover the expenses of replacing an item or repairing a vehicle. In short, it is unfortunate that some students face this issue when attending university, a supposedly "safe place" for learning and development.

A great example of how to solve the problem of bikes being stolen is Project 529, a community bike recovery, a project that relies on stickers placed on the bike with a serial code

assigned to a specific person. This has helped the city of Vancouver improve its ability to catch and return stolen bikes to the owners.

Another way people have solved this problem is through the use of security cameras. Studies show that “60% of the burglars said that they would pick a different target if they knew that a building or site had security cameras” (*DATANET IT*). This means that if we make it clear that there are cameras on and around many of the bike racks on campus the chance that they will get stolen will go drastically down. Another way to possibly prevent bike thefts is to make it easier for people to know how to lock their bike, through plaques that show how to properly lock up your bike. This would also allow for people who might not know how to properly lock up their bikes

Another example to help solve this problem would be to install “watching eyes” near bicycle racks to enforce the message that someone is always watching. This idea is taken away from the following research article, “‘Cycle Thieves. We Are Watching You’: Impact of a Simple Signage Intervention against Bicycle Theft.” The most notable mentions in the article are, “...with a large reduction of bicycle thefts at the experimental locations, reducing them from 39 in the year before the intervention compared to the 15 in the year after[;] previous studies of the watching eyes effect in real-world settings have focused on small acts of generosity [19, 20], or relatively minor infringements of social norms such as putting money in an honesty box, littering or disposing of garbage incorrectly [21-23].” With these ideas and outcomes in mind, it can be shown that implementing something as simple as “watching eyes” at locations where items are being stolen and or property being damaged may result in a decrease of these occurrences. On the same side of the coin, implementing these watching eyes across may contribute to students promoting or doing acts of kindness towards their environment and peers.

On the other hand, watching eyes may cause some students to feel uncomfortable so the best course of action to help solve this would be to inform the students of why and where these watching eyes would be implemented so they are aware. It should be noted that these watching eyes would not have cameras in them but would enforce the idea to perpetrators that there is always someone watching. Which may cause an individual to feel intimidating when hoping to partake in damaging someone's vehicle or stealing someone's valuables. In essence, putting into effect watching eyes at known hotspots where items are stolen and vehicles are damaged may result in a reduction of these occurrences.

When conducting interviews for this subject, our team decided to interview fellow students and security on the matter. Before beginning our discussion on the interviews, it should be noted that students getting their items stolen or property damaged is not limited to one university, state, or country. As mentioned previously, crime exists everywhere, as mentioned by the anxiety students reported having due to crime at a university in South Africa. With these pieces of information in mind begins the first interview with a student who attended Rio Hondo College, a community college in Whittier, California. In the interview, the student reported having more than \$170 worth of items stolen from his locker. The items included various gift cards, \$120 of cash, and a \$50 portable battery pack which were stolen from the student's locker inside of the gym locker room. The student's locker was located inside the gym locker room and the method the locker was broken into is unknown as there are no cameras inside of the locker room. After the situation passed, the student (interviewee) reported feeling vulnerable and isolated fear due to situation he found himself in when his items were stolen; completely alone in the locker room at night and the lighting inside was dim, so the student did not know if the perpetrators were still lurking and felt as if he was still in danger. Without getting into the

interview questions as there are a handful, some noticeable quotes mentioned by the student are the following: No matter how big your lock is, there is always a tool to cut it. The college made me file a police report to where they described to me that they would review camera footage and let me know if they saw anything or anyone coming in or out, they never called me. Last but not least, the interviewees failed expectations of his school to properly handle the situation: I haven't seen any addition of CCTV cameras or security presence; I don't think it's something of priority for them right now. With this handful of information in mind, the audience is able to gain insight on a students' thoughts, feelings, and let downs when it comes to having their valuables stolen at their campus.

Our plan to fix this issue at our school, Arizona State University is simple and effective. Research shows that the parking lots on campus are one of the most unsafe locations for students, especially after dark. Lots of students return to their dorms after the sun goes down either from a late class, from running out to grab a bite to eat or hanging out with family or friends. One way to ensure the safety of students in the parking lots is to install more cameras inside and out of the lots and have them monitored regularly. That way if anything does happen to a student, it is on camera and if it's being monitored correctly, someone will be on their way to help quickly. Students should be able to feel safe anywhere on campus and know that if they are wronged in any way, shape or form, the school will have a record of it and the responsible parties will be held accountable. After a long day the last thing a student wants is to be attacked getting out of their car or get to their car and realize it's been hit. Being under 25, car insurance is already expensive and to have your rate increase even more would just be detrimental. Having good quality cameras in and around the parking lots on campus would make a lot of students

think twice about doing something they know they shouldn't as well as protecting students and their property from being harmed.

According to Kompareit.com, “The total cost of your system depends entirely on the number and quality of cameras required to fulfill your needs. Your basic security camera comes in at around **\$100 on average**, and tops out at around **\$2,000**. As the price rises, of course, so does the quality of the camera and number of features. Your basic models come in at around 1080P/2MP resolution. Commercial-level models record around 15 frames per second, with USB backup and download, as well as remote viewing capabilities, the same as their more expensive counterparts. What you're really missing is resolution and zoom capabilities.” They also add, “Basic models allow you to recognize someone from a distance of 50 feet, and identify someone from 25 feet. In this instance, "recognize" is similar to thinking, "I've seen that person before. "Identification" means you have the ability to easily point out identifiable traits. For example, you could describe the person well enough that a sketch artist could craft a credible likeness based on your description. More advanced models improve both recognition and identification distances. The highest quality cameras allow recognition from 125 feet, and identification from 75 feet.” As you can see, there are companies that offer good quality cameras for college campuses that come in package deals. These package deals are affordable. Here are some of the specific packages: **4-Camera Systems**, 2MP, 50' recognition, 25' identification, digital zoom only, average starting price approximately **\$1,000**, **8-Camera Systems**, 2MP, 50' recognition, 25' identification, digital zoom only, average starting price approximately **\$2,000**, **12-Camera Systems**, 2MP, 50' recognition, 25' identification, digital zoom only, average starting price approximately \$2,750 and finally **16-Camera Systems**, 2MP, 50' recognition, 25' identification, digital zoom only, average starting price approximately \$3,425. The costs for these cameras are

small compared to how much safer they'd make students feel. Not only that but they're worth it to decrease crime rates on campus, keep students out of trouble and protect our student body.

In the end we plan on installing security cameras around campus by bike racks and in parking garages. It would also help to also place plaques around campus near bike racks to make sure students will know how to properly lock up their bikes. Cameras being installed around campus, would dramatically reduce and help solve criminal cases around campus.

### Work Cited

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