Federal Violent Crimes

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Violent Crimes Impacting and Targeting the Asian Community

• Violent crimes impacting and targeting the Asian community:
  • Home Invasions
  • Store Robberies
  • Carjackings

• Asian business owners targeted based on perceived stereotypes
  • Business proceeds kept in home
  • Reluctant to report to law enforcement
  • Reluctant to follow through

• Being Victimized and Terrorized is **NOT** a Cost of Doing Business
Common Targeting Tactics

• Surveillance
  • Asian business owners monitored at stores/restaurants

• Tracking devices
  • May be installed on vehicles to locate residences

• Targeting frequently happens at open/close of business
Crime Prevention Strategies

• Install and monitor surveillance cameras
• Report all criminal/suspicious incidents to police
• Install and advertise alarm systems
• Use banks for business earnings and life savings
• Be aware of surroundings during open/close-commute
• Walk with purpose – understand that you must be vigilant and also appear to be vigilant at all times
Federal Violent Crimes

  • Taking of property by force or threatened force to person or property
    • Robbery vs. burglary
  • Must affect interstate commerce
    • This can include businesses that receive shipments from other states, buy goods in-state that originated out-of-state, serve out-of-state customers, deliver goods across state lines
    • Can apply to business and home invasions targeting business owners

• Using a firearm during a robbery (18 U.S.C. § 924(c))
• Can also charge attempt, aiding and abetting, conspiracy
Investigation and Charging

• Federal agencies investigate, often partner with or are assisted by local police departments and/or other federal agencies

• Federal agencies can “adopt” local cases, but not all of them
  • Considerations for determining whether we want to “adopt” a local case include:
    • Sentencing
    • Multiple crimes in multiple locations
    • Resources
    • Other ongoing federal investigations
Investigation and Charging

• Investigative techniques include:
  • Subpoenas
  • Search warrants
  • Digital analysis of computers, phones
  • Surveillance
  • On-site investigation
  • Forensic analysis of crime scene evidence
  • Interviews of victims, witnesses, and targets
Victims and Witnesses

• Reporting crimes is essential!
  • Your information can assist law enforcement prosecute the crime that was committed against you or that you witnessed, as well as other crimes

• Other ways of assisting with investigations:
  • Surveillance videos
  • Business records
  • Notes
  • Anything left behind by offenders

• We want to work with you to address concerns you have about working with law enforcement.
Thank You

• ATF Resources:
  • Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
    Philadelphia Field Division
    601 Walnut Street, Suite 1000E
    Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

  • https://www.atf.gov/philadelphia-field-division
  • (215) 446-7800
  • PhilaDiv@atf.gov