FOSTER CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

2018 | ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

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Executive Summary

This is the 2018 Foster City Police Department Annual Crime Report. The statistics gathered herein were obtained via internal records management tabulation and give a clear and concise description of the criminal activity that occurred within our City during the calendar year 2018. This report also details the efforts and accomplishments of our Department members toward curtailing these activities via crime prevention measures and/or the arrest of suspects involved in various criminal incidents, and our continual goal of providing *"Excellent service, every call, every contact, every day, and then some!"*

FCPD personnel participated in the numerous countywide meetings and operations with the following groups:

- Countywide Investigators Meetings
- Narcotic Task Force
- Gang Task Force
- Vehicle Theft Task Force
- Human Trafficking Task Force

During these meetings and operations, participants discussed crime trends and criminal activity throughout San Mateo County and the Bay Area. According to the participating agencies, there again was a steady increase in property crimes. Foster City was able to hold that rise to a minimum. This was primarily due to our community partnerships and the diligent efforts of FCPD personnel to deter crime in our City. We saw significant decreases in several crime categories, including a 10% drop in commercial burglaries, an 18% drop in thefts from vehicles, a 25% decrease in graffiti, and a 16% decrease in stolen vehicles. The City saw an increase in three crime categories: residential burglaries increased by 8%, general thefts increased by 25%, and vandalism spiked significantly by 102%. Total property crimes decreased by 1% and were up 33% since 2015. Many of these thefts were classified as felonies prior to the passage of Proposition 47. During numerous interviews of suspects arrested for these crimes, they acknowledged the lack of consequences when they are caught, as they will likely be released with a citation.

As we move into 2019, we continue to feel the impacts of the changes in state law such as the passing of Proposition 57, the previous passing of Proposition 47, and Post Release Community Supervision

(PRCS). The statistical comparisons continue to show increases in property crimes since the passage of the propositions. That said, Foster City community members can rest assured that proactive crime fighting and prevention efforts, tried, true, and innovative, will continue as part of our commitment to maintaining Foster City as a great place to live, work, and play.

Philosophy

We, the members of the Foster City Police Department, are dedicated to providing superior service in a positive and caring manner, incorporating citizen input and external resources to help ensure the protection of life and property and the highest quality of life within the community we serve. We are problem solvers, who look at all the aspects of quality of life for the residents and apply our knowledge and expertise to improve and maintain that quality.

We Provide **"Excellent service, every call, every contact, every day, and then some!"**

Safest City Recognition

In 2018, Foster City was again included in a list of one of the 100 safest cities in the United States, ranking #98, according to Neighborhood Scout, a national residential and commercial data tracking company. Moreover, Foster City was identified as the 12th safest city of municipalities with a population of more than 10,000 residents in California.

Strategic Plan Achievements

With the 2018-2019 Strategic Plan as our guide, the Foster City Police Department conducted several activities, which helped further our overall mission of providing excellent service on every call, during every contact, every day. As a result, we celebrate another successful year in which our residents can safely live, work, and play in Foster City.

FCPD officers spent much of their free patrol time conducting officer initiated activities such as, but not limited to, car stops, pedestrian stops, walk-throughs, bicycle stops, passing checks, home safety surveys, and auto security report cards. These efforts resulted in on-view arrests, the identification of individuals with a criminal history/intent and the prevention of criminal activity by being highly visible and interactive with our community.

Crime Prevention/Community Outreach

In 2018, Foster City Police Department Officers conducted over 50 Community Outreach Activities (COP) at various residences, businesses, schools, and organizations. We assisted a neighborhood watch group, which hosted a, "National Night Out" community event. We assisted the Parks and Recreation department with their, "Neighborhood Nights." These events gave our officers a chance to engage with many of Foster City's residents. We completed seven CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) surveys for local businesses, schools, and residences. Crime Prevention-Community Outreach also worked with new developers in Foster City to provide design ideas to enhance crime prevention at their properties. The FCPD, the Foster City Fire Department, and Public Works all hosted our joint Annual Open Houses, allowing members of our community to interact with our staffs and get to know them. We provided residents with an opportunity to tour our stations and ask questions about our equipment/procedures. In 2018, there was a rise in active shooter incidents in the United States, which put many people on high alert. Crime Prevention worked closely with businesses and schools to educate them on how to better prepare themselves for that type of incident. In April, the FCPD launched the, "Community Police Academy." This program is an eight week course that is open to all residents and employees of Foster City. It gives students the chance to learn how the police department works within the community, patrol officer functions, traffic safety, common laws, and an opportunity to get to know a multitude of officers from our police department. During

the year, Crime Prevention participated in multiple anti-smoking details throughout the city. We passed out lots of literature and educated both people and businesses about the no smoking ordinance. The FCPD also continued to increase our use of various social media sources to notify and educate the public with real-time information regarding, public safety concerns, criminal activity and crime prevention tips.

Significant Case Highlights

During 2018, the City of Foster City experienced an incremental decrease in property crimes while other cities in the region experienced significant increases in these types of crimes. The mitigation of crime is a testimonial to our partnership with our community, and the hard work and dedication of our Department staff to combat crime within our city. Some of these efforts are highlighted below.

In March, patrol officers took a report of package thefts from doorsteps. A surveillance camera captured video of the suspect and his vehicle. Detectives recognized and identified the suspect as the same person that committed an automobile burglary in Foster City in 2017. The case was sent to the District Attorney's Office and resulted in a successful prosecution.

In May and June, several commercial construction sites were burglarized, resulting in the loss of more than $50,000 in tools, equipment, and construction materials. In late June, patrol officers responded to a report of an unknown subject entering a construction site after hours. The suspect was located and arrested for burglary, possession of stolen property, and possession of burglary tools. Detectives served a search warrant at the suspect's storage unit in the East Bay and conducted additional follow up that linked the suspect to five other burglaries in Foster City.

In June and July, Foster City experienced a spike in stolen Ford F-250 and F-350 pickup trucks. During several of the vehicle thefts, officers located other stolen F-250 and F-350s parked nearby, usually stolen from East Bay cities. Officers located items in one of the recovered trucks that did not belong to the owner of the vehicle. The items were sent to the forensic laboratory for analysis. The laboratory located fingerprints on one of the items that belonged to a prolific auto thief who was on probation for auto theft and had active warrants for auto theft out of San Mateo and Solano Counties. Detectives shared the information about the suspect with the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force (VTTF) in an attempt to locate the suspect. The suspect was later located by the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force, driving yet another stolen Ford pickup, and was charged with numerous counts of auto theft, including the Foster City cases.

In September, patrol officers took a report of multiple automobile burglaries from the parking

structure of an apartment building. Officers learned the suspect used a credit card stolen from the victim's vehicle at a nearby business. Surveillance footage from the business captured video of the suspect and the suspect's vehicle. The footage was shared with other law enforcement agencies in the area and the suspect and suspect vehicle was stopped within the week by law enforcement in the East Bay. The suspect was positively identified and charged with multiple burglaries.

In September, patrol officers responded to a report of suspicious subjects in the early morning hours. The reporting party said the two subjects were wearing all dark clothing and possibly looking into vehicles. Officers found one of the subjects hiding in the bushes of a residence and later determined he was trying to access vehicles for the purpose of committing theft. The suspect was arrested for numerous crimes.

In late September, a patrol officer was conducting a check of a townhome complex due to a recent increase in automobile break-ins. As he drove through the parking lot (around midnight), the officer saw a subject in the distance wearing all dark clothing walking near parked vehicles. As the officer neared the area where he last saw the suspicious subject, a vehicle drove past the officer with its headlights off. The officer stopped the vehicle and contacted the two occupants. At the same time, a resident of the complex called the police department to report that they just saw a subject breaking into a vehicle. The description of the subject provided by the reporting party matched the passenger in the vehicle the officer just stopped. The subject, who was on probation for robbery, was positively identified by the victim and arrested at the scene.

In October, a patrol officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic infraction. The driver was on probation and a search was conducted pursuant to his probation terms. Inside the vehicle, officers located more than $1,000 in unreported stolen merchandise from several stores in Foster City and San Mateo. The driver and his two passengers were determined to be under the influence of a controlled substance and in possession of various narcotics. All three were arrested and booked for various charges.

In November, patrol officers responded to a warehouse store for the report of two subjects making a $5,000+ purchase with a fraudulent check. Suspect #1 fled the scene in a vehicle prior to police arrival. Suspect #2 was arrested at the scene and found to be in possession of stolen mail, stolen credit cards, and a notebook that contained identifying information of multiple persons. Suspect #2 had a history of manufacturing fraudulent IDs, checks, and credit cards, he was on probation for drug charges, and was

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out on bail for burglary and possession of stolen property. Surveillance images of Suspect #1 were shared with Bay Area law enforcement agencies, which led to Suspect #1's identification by an officer from Monterey County. Around one week later, an observant patrol officer saw Suspect #1's vehicle pulling into an apartment complex in Foster City and conducted a traffic stop. Suspect #1 and his three passengers were all found to be in possession of fraudulent identifications, fraudulent credit cards, and forged documents in other people's names as well as stolen mail, narcotics, and narcotics paraphernalia. The vehicle Suspect #1 was driving was purchased using a fraudulent identification. Suspect #1 was also renting an apartment in the aforementioned apartment complex using a different fraudulent identification. Detectives served a search warrant at Suspect #1's apartment and located over 700+ pieces of stolen mail, numerous fictitious identifications, notebooks full of personal identifying information (names, dates of birth, social security numbers), and tools and equipment used to manufacture fraudulent identifications and counterfeit money. Three of the suspects in this case had prior convictions for identity theft related charges and were on probation for the same. All of the suspects were arrested and booked on a litany of charges related to identity theft, forgery, theft, possession of stolen property, and narcotics possession. The United States Postal Inspectors were notified and assisted with the investigation.

In December, patrol officers took a report of a wallet theft at a supermarket. The elderly victim was distracted by one suspect as another suspect stole the wallet from the distracted victim's purse. The suspects used the victim's credit cards at a store in a neighboring city to make over $3,000 in purchases. Two days later, the officers took an identical report from another victim. Store surveillance showed it was the same suspects. One suspect was located and arrested by a neighboring police department after victimizing another elderly victim. All three suspects were identified and cases were sent to the district attorney for burglary, elder abuse, conspiracy and several theft related crimes.

In December, patrol officers responded to the parking lot of a warehouse store for an automobile burglary that just occurred. Detectives responded for an area check and located the suspect and suspect vehicle at a nearby gas station. When the detectives initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle, the suspect began throwing evidence out of the windows of his vehicle. The vehicle stopped nearby, the suspect was arrested, and the victim's property was recovered.

## Patrol Activity/Statistics

Calls for Service

During 2018, FCPD Dispatch logged more than 31,295 "CAD Incidents." which includes all police activity in the city. Officers of the Foster City Police Department responded to 16577 calls for service, which was an 8% increase from the previous year. This marked the fifth consecutive year that the calls for service increased, for a cumulative increase of 49%.

Officer Initiated Activity

When officers were not responding to calls, conducting investigations or report writing, they were engaged in officer initiated activities. During 2018, FCPD officers were involved in 14,718 officer initiated activities, which was approximately 13% lower than the previous year.

Arrests

During 2018, there were some very significant arrests made that directly impacted property crime as noted in the case highlights. Officers arrested 598 suspects (482 Misdemeanor, 116 Felony), which was an 18% increase from the previous year.
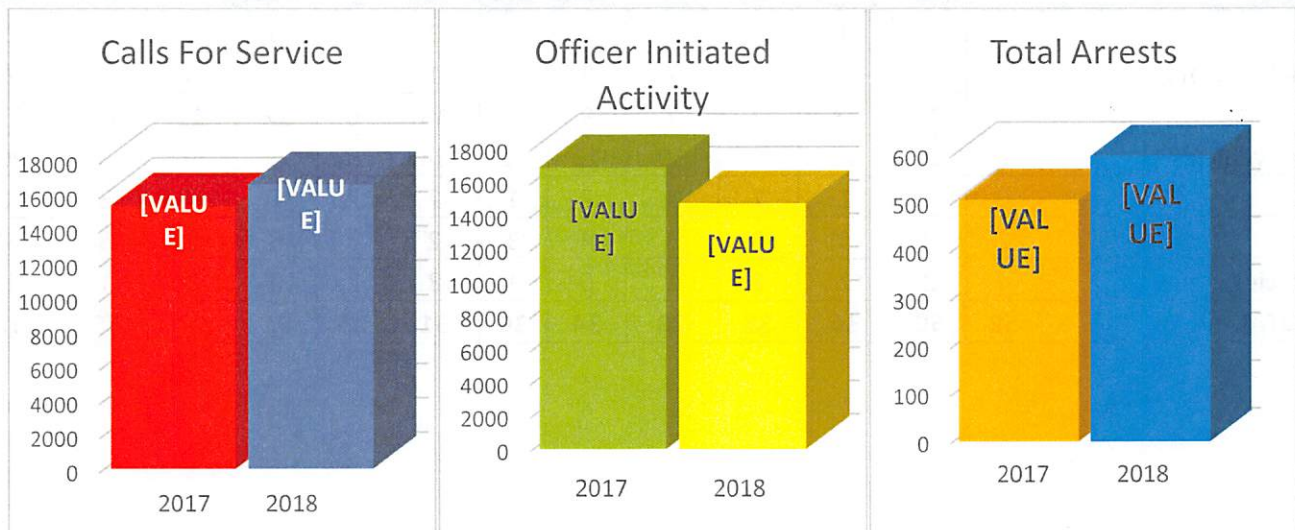
ANNUAL CRIME STATS
2017-2018 COMPARISON

2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Residential burglary	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	2	8	7	1	26
Commercial burglary	2	0	2	3	3	3	3	0	0	1	3	0	20
Thefts	13	12	17	17	13	9	17	12	14	8	20	19	171
Thefts from vehicles	21	14	15	10	6	5	12	11	37	13	9	15	168
Graffiti	2	0	4	0	3	1	2	5	2	2	0	1	22
Vandalism	6	5	5	11	6	5	1	4	7	8	10	3	71
Stolen Vehicles	1	2	1	1	0	5	1	2	0	1	1	1	16
GRAND TOTAL	45	33	45	43	31	31	39	34	62	41	50	40	494

2017

|	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Residential burglary	3	1	3	0	1	5	3	3	1	0	1	3	24
Commercial burglary	1	3	0	2	2	2	2	1	0	4	4	1	22
Thefts	7	23	13	7	7	9	14	14	6	12	11	14	137
Thefts from vehicles	41	20	11	18	10	11	12	26	9	29	9	8	204
Graffiti	0	1	1	7	4	3	1	2	2	1	4	3	29
Vandalism	2	0	4	3	3	4	3	2	3	5	1	5	35
Stolen Vehicles	4	2	2	1	1	0	1	3	2	0	2	1	19
GRAND TOTAL	58	50	34	38	28	34	36	51	23	51	32	35	470

Explanation of Maps

The following maps display the location of specific crimes that occurred in Foster City during 2017. Both maps show that the incidents of these crimes are not significantly "clustered" into any single high crime area, but instead range throughout our community indicating that most of these incidents were crimes of opportunity.
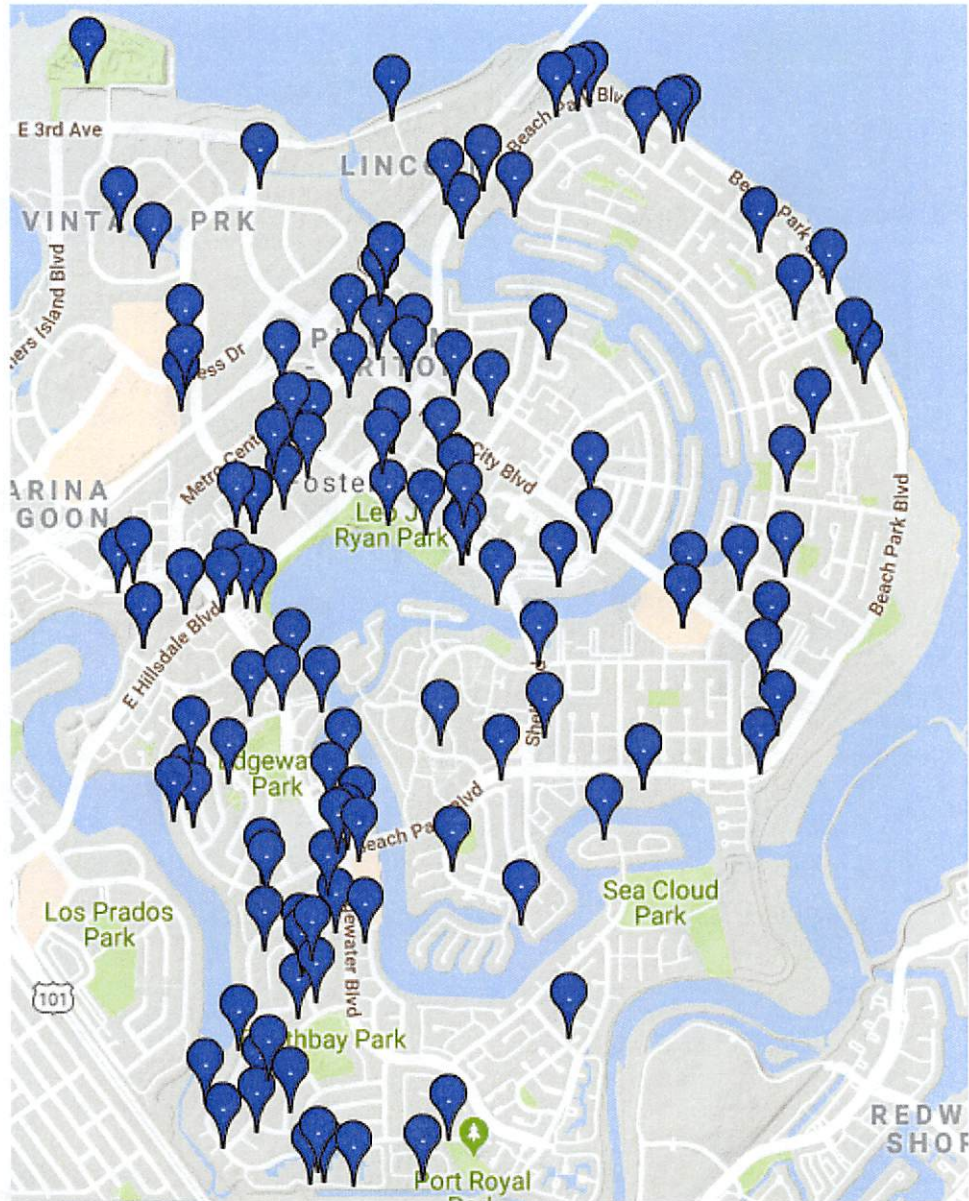
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES
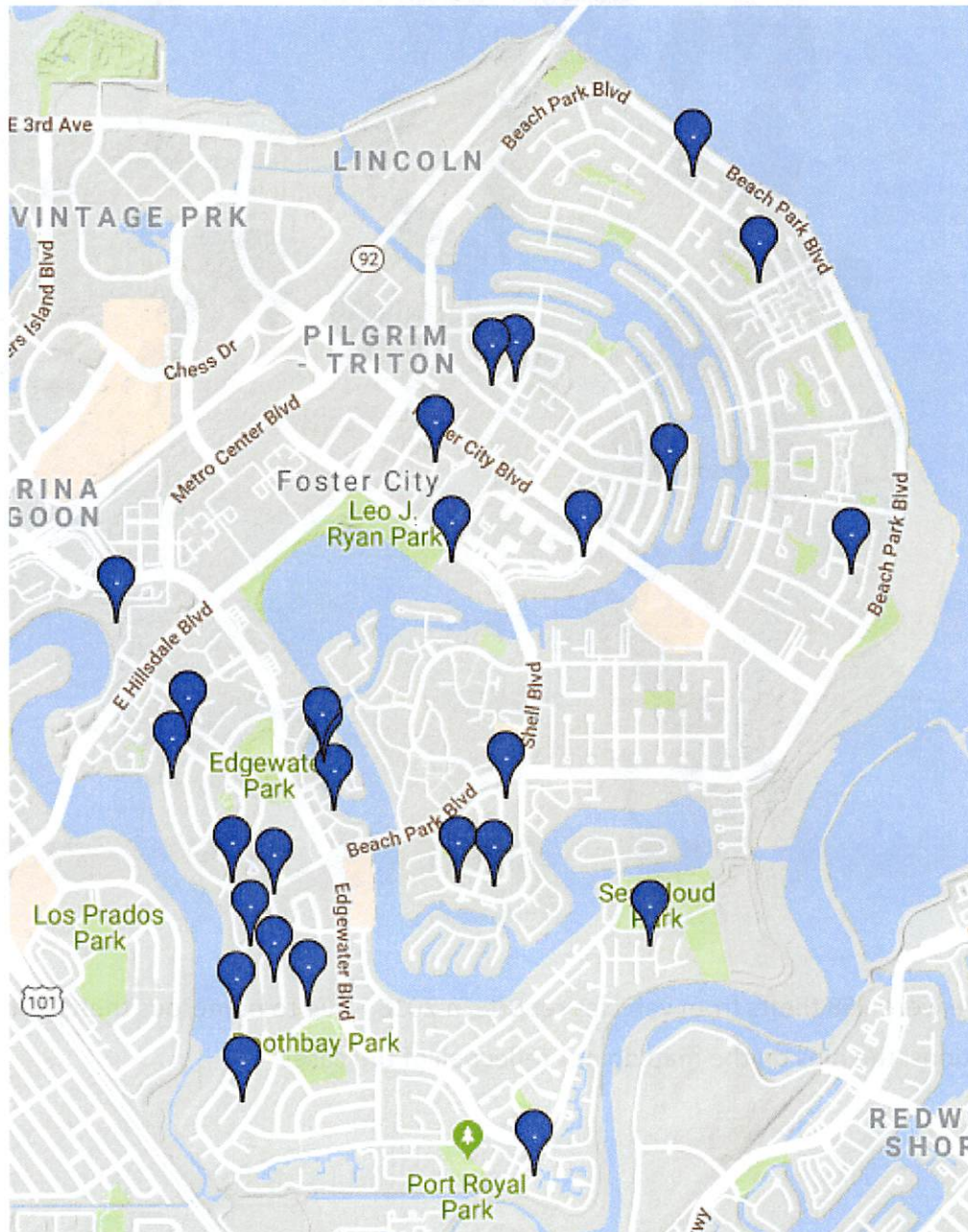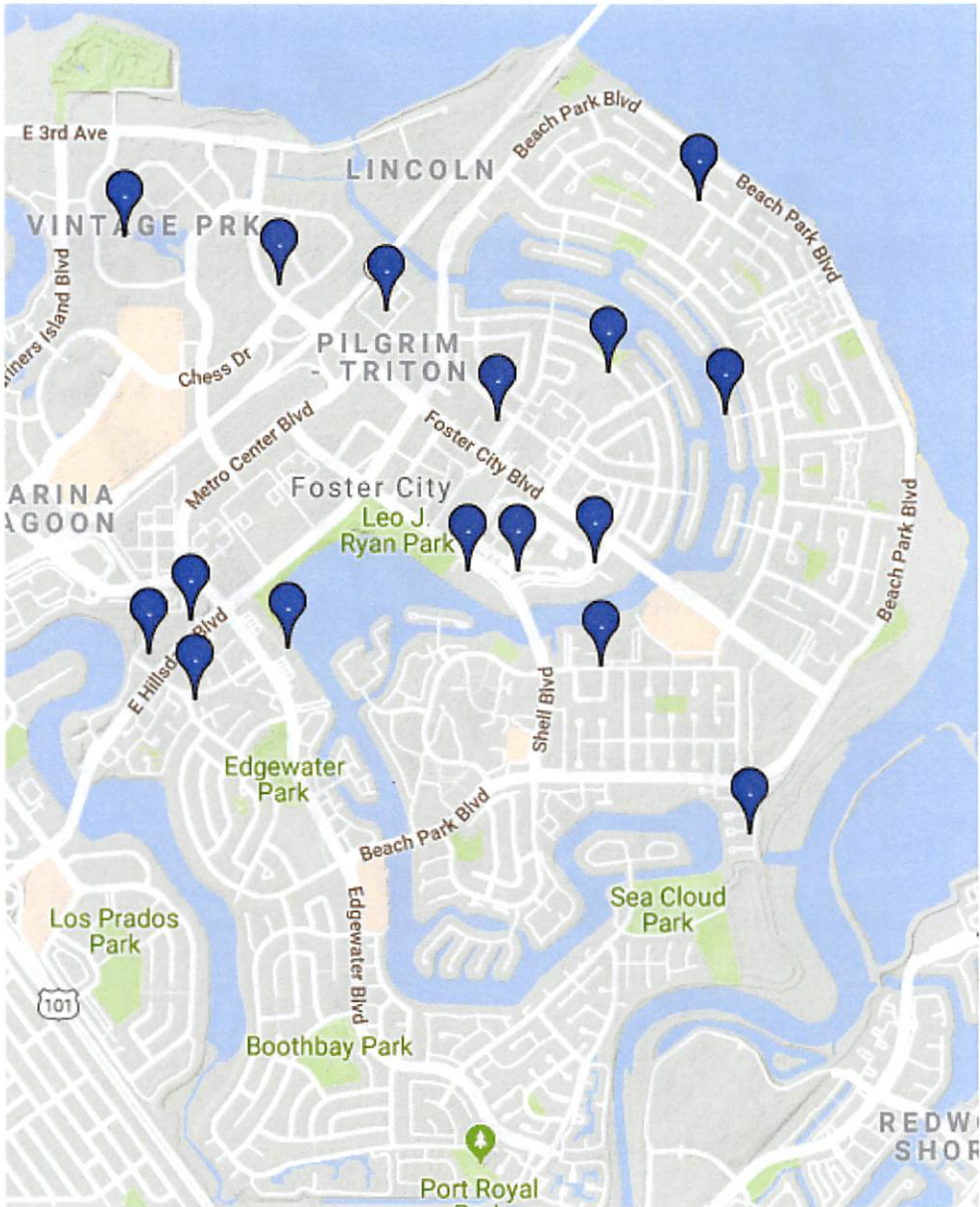
THEFTS FROM VEHICLES – INCLUDES AUTO BURGLARY
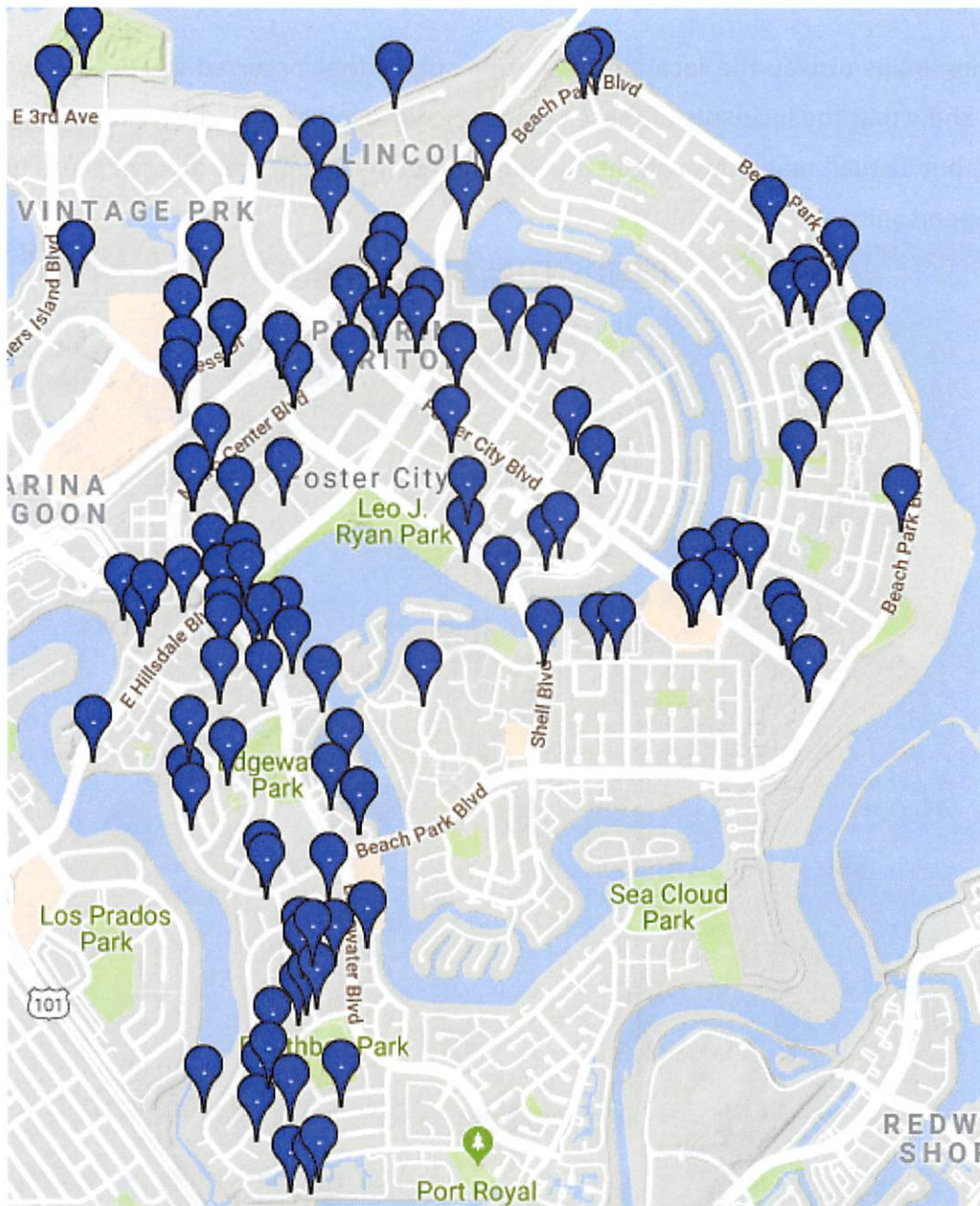
- There were 168 thefts from vehicles reports in 2018. Due to numerous thefts at the same locations, the pins on the map do not reflect all of the cases.
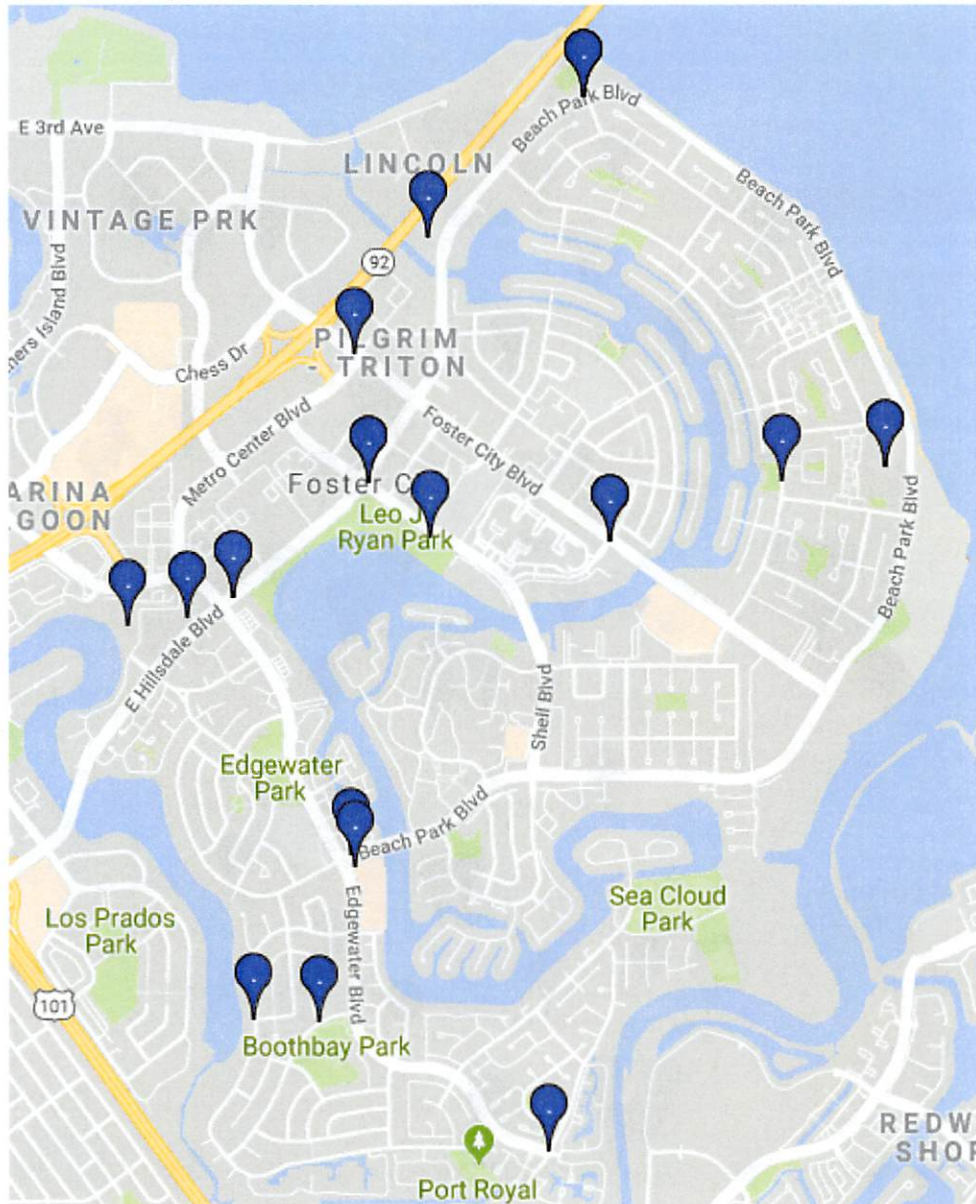
THEFTS

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STOLEN VEHICLES

GRAFFITI

VANDALISM