

FOSTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2019 | ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

Tracy Avelar- Chief of Police

**Report prepared by
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Executive Summary

This is the 2019 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 Foster City during the calendar year 2019. 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!”*

FCPD personnel participated in 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. There was also an ongoing countywide upward trend in thefts from vehicles. Foster City was able to hold that rise to a minimum from the previous year. This was primarily due to our community partnerships and the diligent efforts of FCPD personnel to deter crime in the City. We saw significant decreases in several crime categories, including a 57% drop in vandalism, a 13% drop in graffiti, and a 25% decrease in commercial burglaries. The City saw an increase in three crime categories: residential burglaries increased by 30%, general thefts increased by 8%, and thefts from vehicles rose by 29%. Total property crimes increased by 5% from 2018 and have risen 72% since 2015. There has been a negligible increase in the City’s estimated population since 2015.

Safest City Recognition

In 2019, Foster City was included in a list as one of the 50 safest cities in California, ranking #10, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security, a national residential and commercial data tracking company. They used data from the FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics to determine their rankings.

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!”**

Strategic Plan Achievements

With the 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 citizens safely lived, worked and played in Foster City.

FCPD officers spent much of their free patrol time conducting officer initiated activities such as, but not limited to, traffic enforcement and education, school safety, walk-throughs, security checks, passing checks, and home safety surveys. These efforts resulted in on-view arrests, the identification of individuals with criminal intent and the prevention of criminal activity by being highly visible and interactive with our community.

Crime Prevention

In 2019, Foster City Police Department as a whole utilized a variety of avenues to be active in engaging with the community and its members. During the course of the year, Officers conducted over 50 Community Outreach Activities (COP) at various residences, businesses, schools, and organizations. Some of these events included Coffee With a Cop, the Holi Festival, the Visa Safety Day, special events in the city, and providing assistance with the community bike ride, AYSO's opening day, and the Summer Days events. The FCPD, the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, and Public Works all hosted the joint Annual Open Houses in October, allowing members of the community to interact with our employees and get to know them. During the event, we provided residents with an opportunity to tour our stations and ask questions about our equipment and procedures. This year yielded a very high turnout of attendees, which was much larger than past years.

Crime Prevention-Community Outreach worked with new developers in Foster City and through the use of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), provide design ideas to enhance crime prevention at their properties. CPTED was also used to help local businesses, and homeowners to implement better design ideas on properties to help deter criminal activity. Through numerous presentations and neighborhood meetings, we worked closely with community groups, religious groups, local businesses, homeowners associations, homeowners, and residents to better educate them on auto

burglaries, residential burglaries, telephone scams, identity theft, and active shooter incidents. By continuing to educate the public, we helped the community and its members to be more resistance to criminal activity. The FCPD hosted two Community Police Academy courses during the year. Each course had approximately 20 students. This course is an eight-week program, which allows the community members to meet the officers of Foster City and to learn how they handle calls for service and why they respond in the manner, they do.

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 2019, the City of Foster City experienced a slight increase in total property crimes from the year prior. Still, we were able to make several significant arrests and we solved a wide variety of the cases taken throughout the year. This is, in large part, a testament to our partnership with our community, and the hard work and dedication of our Department staff to combat crime within the City. Some of these efforts are highlighted below.

Between February and July of 2019, we experienced a surge in residential burglaries. Most of these burglaries were linked with a similar modus operandi in that entry was made through a smashed rear sliding glass door. In May, Detective Turner collaborated with a detective from Belmont PD who was working on similar cases. Together, they were able to use shared data obtained with search warrants to connect a known suspect to five of our residential burglaries. These cases were forwarded to the D.A. for prosecution. The Detective Bureau continues to conduct follow-up on the various cases and we hope to be able to solve even more of them in the future. A multi-jurisdictional group of investigators comprised of detectives from around the County was formed in regards to this specific known suspect and his crime spree. The D.A.'s office is working closely with the group to coordinate the capture and continued investigation into the suspect's crimes.

In early January, three subjects were contacted in a residential area for a smoking ordinance violation. Two of the subjects were found to be on probation with search and seizure clauses. It was determined that all three subjects were in possession of controlled substance paraphernalia and were associates of known felons who are residents of Foster City. The subjects were arrested for the violations. During the same contact, two other subjects were located nearby and one was found to have an outstanding warrant for his arrest, and another was found with controlled substance paraphernalia. Both subjects were arrested for the offenses.

In the middle of January, an officer made a traffic stop and discovered, during a probable cause search, that the suspect was in possession of controlled substance paraphernalia. Numerous suspected stolen items were located in the vehicle including personally identifying information of numerous victims. The Detective Bureau conducted a follow up investigation and the suspect was later convicted of multiple crimes.

Towards the end of January a shoplifting occurred wherein 3 suspects were involved in the theft of approximately \$1600.00 worth of merchandise. While attempting to flee the scene, the suspects struck the victim with their vehicle. One suspect was located and arrested on scene. The two suspects who fled were identified after an investigation and charges were forwarded to the District Attorney's office for their prosecution. A follow-up investigation is ongoing to confirm the identity of the assault suspect.

After an extensive investigation stemming from a tip in January, a suspect was found to be in possession of a large amount of child pornography. The suspect was identified, arrested and the pornography was seized. Charges have been filed by the District Attorney's office and the suspect is awaiting trial.

In the beginning of February, two suspects broke into the Foster City Recreation Center and stole numerous laptops. During the investigation, officers shared surveillance photos with nearby police agencies and were able to obtain potential identities for both suspects. A subsequent follow-up investigation resulted in the successful prosecution of one of the suspects for his crime.

At the end of February, a female attempted to seriously harm her boyfriend during a case of domestic violence. She doused him with rubbing alcohol and attempted to light him on fire before threatening him with a kitchen knife. Responding officers approached the suspect with caution and ensured she was disarmed before escorting her out of the apartment to conduct their investigation. The knife was located and seized and the suspect was detained for a 72 hour mental health evaluation for being a danger to herself and other. The suspect was subsequently arrested after she was cleared by the mental health staff. She was charged with multiple felonies and was successfully prosecuted for her crime.

At the end of February, a vehicle was broken into by way of a smashed window. Responding officers quickly gathered information about what was stolen and got the word out to neighboring agencies about the suspect descriptions and details of the crime. Two suspects who matched the description were later located by a neighboring agency with the stolen property in their possession and arrested for the crime.

At the end of February, a victim's mail was stolen from her mailbox, including an outgoing check she wrote to her life insurance company. The check was altered and cashed under a name not known to the victim. FCPD Detectives conducted an investigation and were able to locate the suspect, confirm he matched the suspect in the surveillance and he was later charged with the crime.

At the end of February, there was a series of auto burglaries. The stolen property was located with suspects by a neighboring agency. A follow up investigation was conducted and charges were filed against the suspects by the District Attorney's office. One suspect accepted a plea deal, and the other suspect continues to fight the charges. The disposition on the second suspect's case is still pending.

At the beginning of March, three suspects strong-arm robbed a victim of a Nintendo switch gaming system that he was trying to sell on "Offer Up." The suspect's vehicle was identified during the initial investigation. Oakland PD later located the vehicle and contacted the FCPD Detective Bureau who responded to conduct their investigation. All three suspects were identified through various means and arrested for the crime.

Towards the middle of March, a juvenile victim was robbed while in a park. Two juvenile suspects held the victim down, assaulted him and stole the victim's wallet. The suspects were identified and arrested shortly thereafter. The stolen wallet and contents were also recovered and returned to the owner.

During the middle of March, a male and female subject were contacted for a pedestrian stop. The male was found in possession of burglary tools. They were also found with a noisemaker. It was determined through the investigation that the suspects intended to use the noisemaker to alert each other of the presence of witnesses while committing auto burglaries. The male suspect was arrested for the possession of burglary tools and the conspiracy case against the female was forwarded to the District Attorney's office for review.

At the end of March, a suspect attempted to carjack a victim. The victim sped off before the suspect could gain access to her vehicle. The suspect also had attempted to steal someone's bicycle, stole someone's gas canister and then used his own vehicle to do donuts in the grass at a park, causing substantial damage. The suspect fled from police and drove recklessly when a traffic stop was initiated and was subsequently arrested for his numerous crimes.

At the beginning of April, a subject was contacted during a traffic enforcement stop. During a probable

cause search of the vehicle, the officer located a loaded firearm, multiple magazines and ammunition. The firearm had an altered/shaved serial number and he was in possession of drugs and paraphernalia. There was also evidence that indicated he was selling drugs. The suspect was arrested for the violations and subsequently accepted a plea bargain for numerous charges.

In the middle of April, a subject was contacted in a vehicle. During a consensual search of the vehicle, the officer located a loaded firearm. The subject was arrested for the violation.

In the middle of May, a subject stole his co-worker's credit cards and used them fraudulently. The subject was identified, located and arrested for the offense. When arrested, he was found to be in possession of the victims' credit cards. During a subsequent investigation, it was determined that the suspect had taken additional victims' credit cards and these charges were added to the case and forwarded to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

In June, two suspects stole the victim's wallet from her purse while she was dining at a local restaurant. The suspect used the victim's credit cards to make numerous purchases in excess of \$4000.00. The Detective Bureau conducted an investigation into the matter and was able to locate surveillance of the suspects. An image was distributed to other local agencies and the suspects were identified as members of a notorious pick pocket group, who were already under investigation in Ventura County. The case was forwarded to the District Attorney's office for prosecution and charges were filed against the suspects.

At the beginning of July, a juvenile male suspect (14) entered the female public restroom at a local park. The suspect dropped his pants and touched a female juvenile victim (8) with his genitals. The suspect paid the victim \$22.00 in cash and told her not to tell anyone. Another juvenile female witnessed the incident. An adult then came out of a stall in the restroom and pushed the suspect, who then fled. Officers responded to area, located the suspect nearby and apprehended him. He was arrested for the crime, charges were filed and he was successfully prosecuted for the crimes.

In the middle of July a subject was contacted while riding his bicycle at night for a vehicle code violation. The subject was on active San Mateo County probation. During a search, it was determined

that he was carrying a large machete in his boot, a large metal filled wood baton, methamphetamine and controlled substance paraphernalia. It was also determined that he was under the influence of a controlled substance. The suspect was arrested, placed on a probation hold and was later successfully prosecuted for his crimes.

In the middle of July, a subject was contacted during a traffic stop and found to be transporting marijuana in an unsealed container, in violation of the law. During a probable cause search of the vehicle, he was found to be in possession of a concealed loaded firearm. The subject was not the registered owner of the firearm. The suspect was arrested for the offense and was later successfully prosecuted for the crimes.

At the end of July, a subject made lewd gestures towards a female victim on the ped-way and then attempted to steal her cellular phone. He also blocked her movement and threatened her. The victim fled the scene. Officers canvassed the area and found a suspect who matched the description. They conducted an investigation and determined that it was the suspect. He was placed under arrest and later charged with numerous crimes.

At the beginning of August, a subject went to his parent's home unannounced and demanded money and cigarettes. The suspect then attempted to set fire to his parents' home by spreading gasoline along the exterior of the home and then threatening to light it on fire if his parent's wouldn't give him money. Officers responded to the home and placed the suspect under arrest for the violations. The District Attorney's office filed multiple felony charges against the suspect.

In the middle of August, a suspect shattered someone's car window and stole her purse. The suspect then used the stolen credit cards to purchase gift cards from a nearby store. Officers searched for nearby crimes of a similar nature and found that four suspects were arrested later that day for auto burglaries. One of the suspects matched the description of the suspects in our case. Officers presented witnesses with a photo line-up of the suspects and were able to get a positive identification. The investigation is ongoing.

At the end of August, a subject pushed a bicycle into a victim on the ped-way and then grabbed her

wrists. He punched the victim in the face and then sexually assaulted her by touching her inappropriately over her clothing multiple times. The suspect was later identified as the same suspect from the previous case of a similar nature earlier in the month (above). The suspect was identified via a photo line-up. When officers attempted to contact the suspect, he fled on foot and jumped over a chain link fence. Officers pursued him and placed him under arrest. The suspect was charged with multiple crimes.

In September, a suspect assaulted his wife, but officers were unable to locate him at the time of the initial report. Another call came in later that he was back at the residence and was blocking his wife from leaving. He was contacted and found to be in possession of methamphetamine, paraphernalia and forged checks. He was placed under arrest for all of the violations. The case was forwarded to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

In the middle of October, a subject was contacted for numerous traffic violations. It was suspected that the subject was under the influence of a controlled substance while driving. The subject was also on parole for a violent felony. He denied having any narcotics on him at that time. While officers were attempting to investigate him for driving under the influence, he dropped a large bag of suspected methamphetamine on the ground and tried to hide it by stomping on it and dragging it across the ground. During a search of the suspect's phone, it was determined that he was in the process of selling narcotics illegally. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of sales, being under the influence of a controlled substance while driving and violating his parole. Officers also located hidden compartments in his vehicle with drug residue inside of them. The District Attorney's office filed multiple charges against the suspect and the case is still in process.

At the end of October, we received the report of an auto burglary that just occurred in a restaurant parking lot. Officers responded and made an investigative stop on a vehicle leaving the area that matched the description of the suspect vehicle. The occupants matched the description of the suspects. They were found in possession of stolen property and a follow up investigation tied them to numerous crimes. The suspects were arrested for the on-view charges and the Detective Bureau is continuing to investigate the suspects for additional crimes.

In November, a known adult male suspect, who had a history of annoying and harassing female

juveniles with sexual intentions, was attempting the same type of behavior with a female victim at a youth center. The suspect acquired her Snapchat information and began to initiate a relationship with her in violation of his conditions of parole. The suspect was contacted and arrested for the violation. He remains in custody and the investigation is ongoing as of this report.

In December, a male intoxicated suspect threw objects at his wife and child. Police responded to the disturbance and the suspect approached them with an expandable baton in his hand. The suspect was ordered back, but continued to approach police with the baton expanded at the ready. The suspect eventually complied and dropped the baton, and was subsequently placed under arrest for the violations. The case was forwarded to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

Patrol Activity/Statistics

Calls for Service

During 2019, FCPD Dispatch logged more than 31,824 “CAD Incidents.” which includes all police activity in the city. Officers of the Foster City Police Department responded to 17416 calls for service, which is a 5% increase from the previous year. This marked the sixth consecutive year that calls for service have increased.

Officer Initiated Activity

When officers were not responding to calls, conducting investigations or report writing, they were engaged in officer initiated activities. During 2019, FCPD officers were involved in 14,408 officer-initiated activities, which is approximately 2% lower than the previous year, and likely correlated to lower than normal staffing levels and increased calls for service.

Arrests

During 2019, there were some very significant arrests made that directly impacted property crime as noted in the case highlights. Officers arrested 495 suspects (416 Misdemeanor, 79 Felony), which was a 18% decrease from the previous year, and likely correlated to lower staffing levels throughout the year and increased calls for service of different types that did not involve arrests.



ANNUAL CRIME STATS
2018-2019 COMPARISON

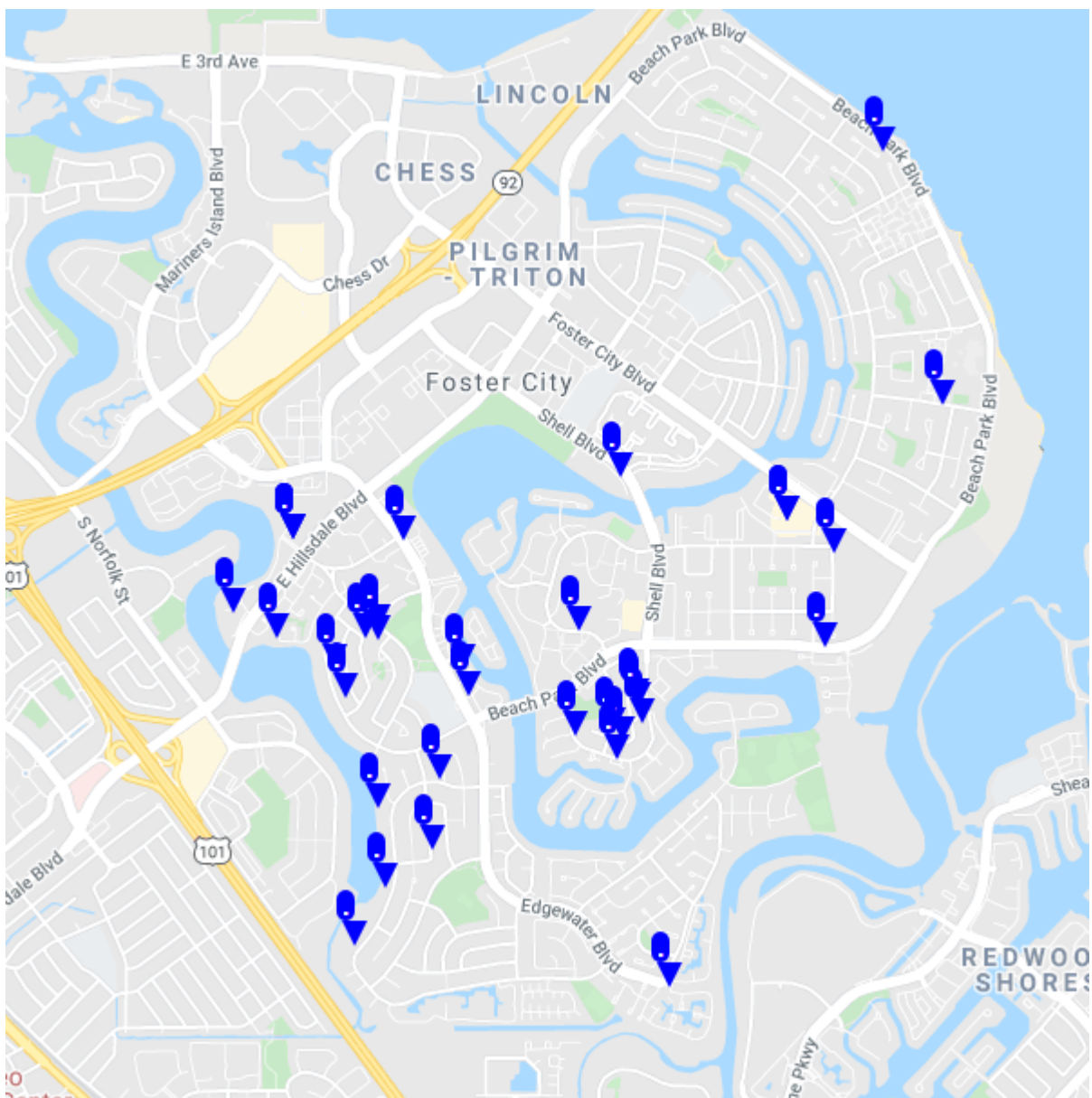
2019 ANNUAL CRIME STATS													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Residential burg	1	7	4	5	2	1	4	0	2	1	4	3	34
Commercial burg	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	6	3	0	0	2	15
Thefts	20	15	12	10	19	15	20	17	12	12	11	23	186
Thefts from vehicles	16	21	30	8	19	12	22	16	19	22	17	16	218
Graffiti	1	0	1	1	2	3	3	4	0	0	4	0	19
Vandalism	2	1	1	1	1	7	3	1	4	3	3	3	30
Stolen Vehicles	0	0	1	0	1	6	2	0	4	0	2	0	16
GRAND TOTAL	40	47	49	25	45	44	54	44	44	38	41	47	518

2018 ANNUAL CRIME STATS													
	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

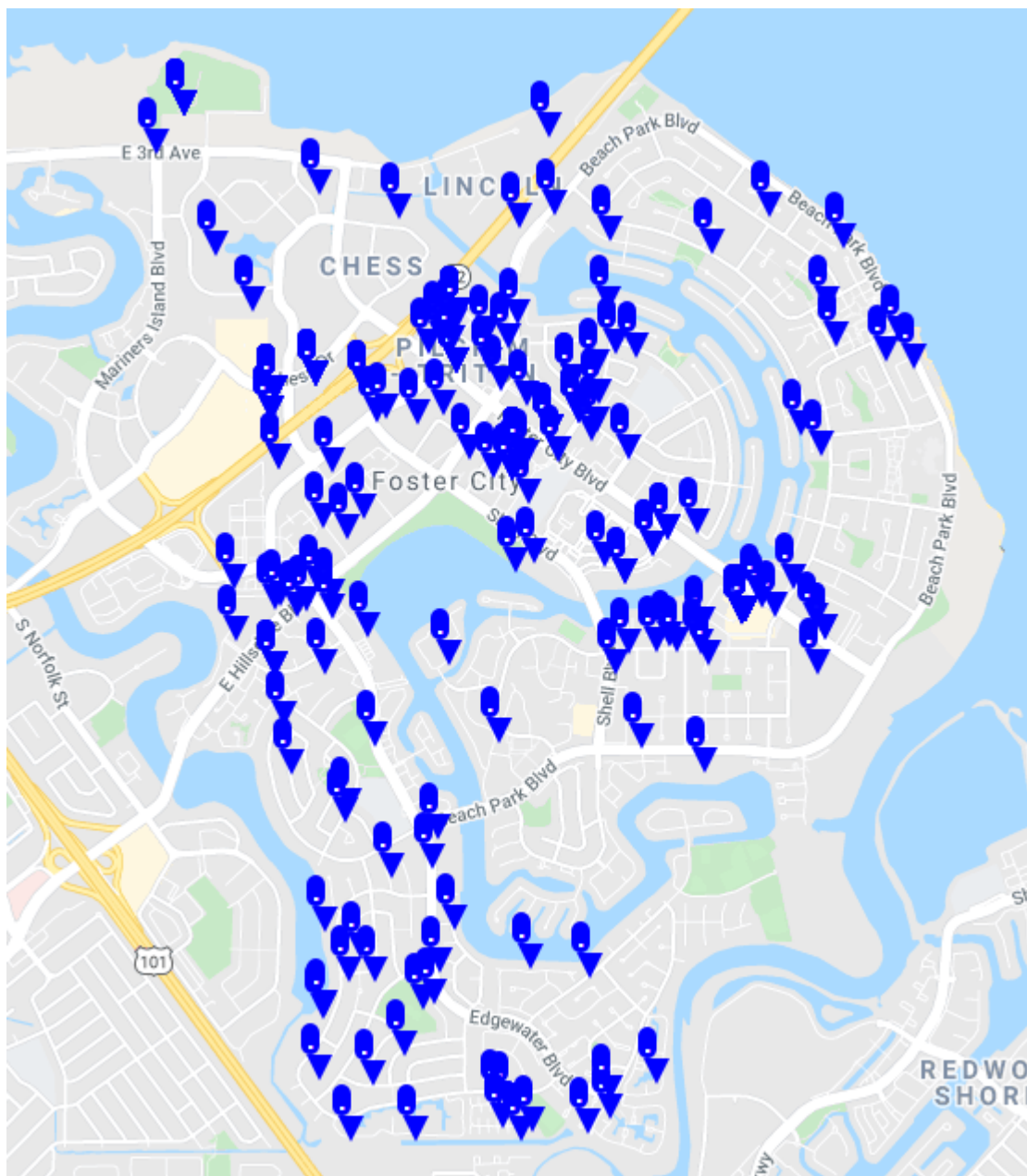
Explanation of Maps

The following maps display the location of specific crimes that occurred in Foster City during 2019. All of the 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

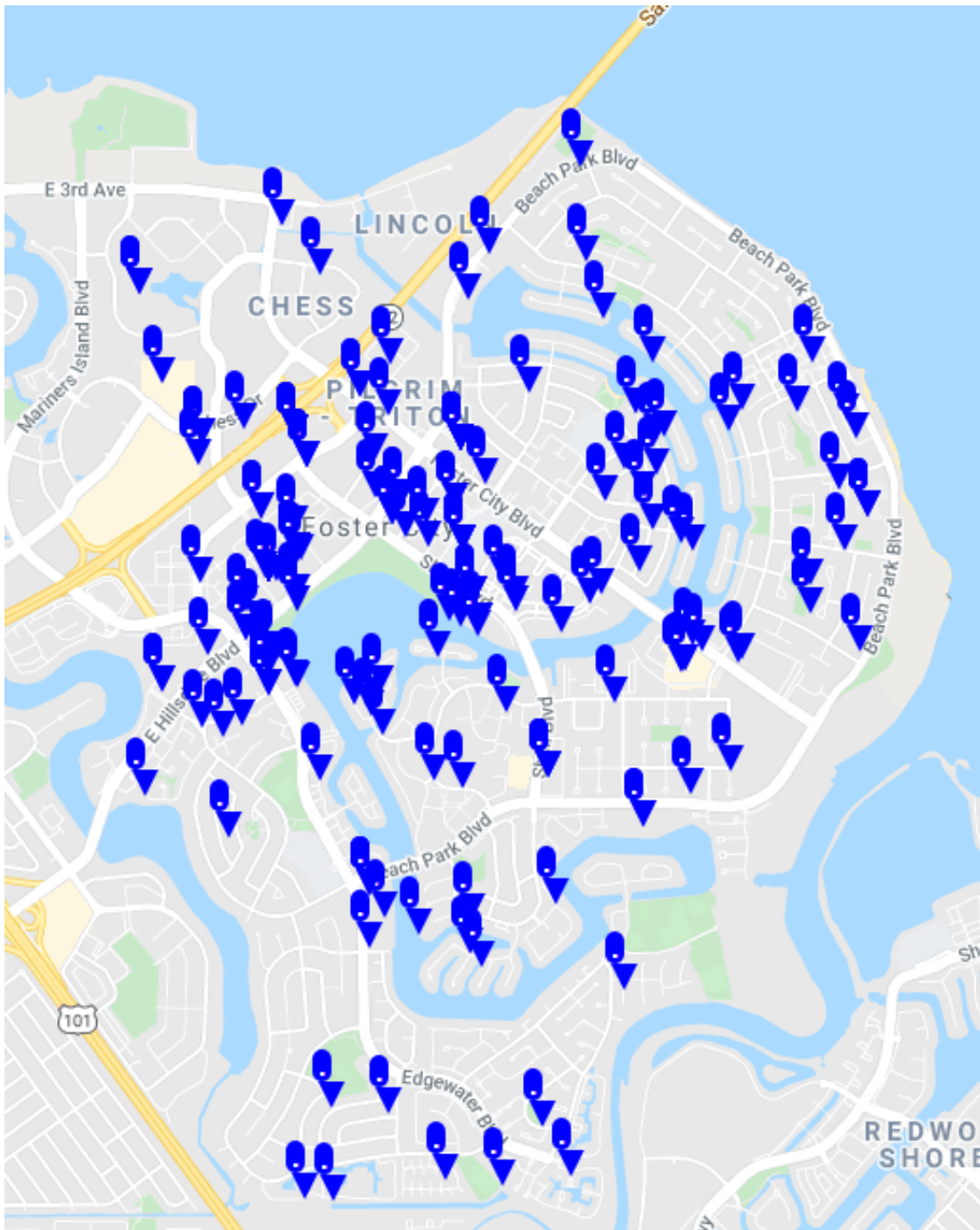


THEFT FROM VEHICLES – INCLUDES AUTO BURGLARY



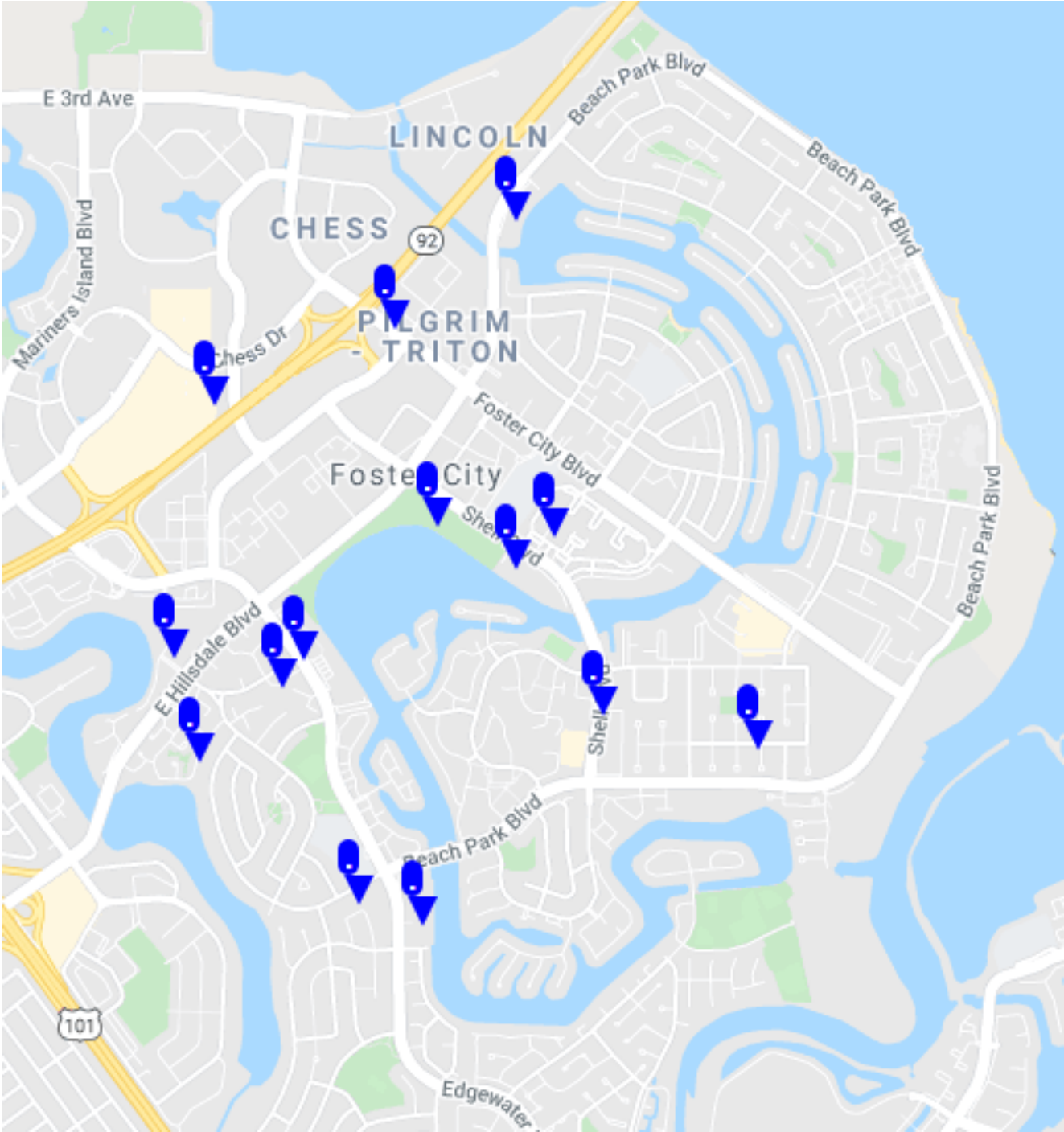
- There were 218 thefts from vehicles reports in 2019. Due to numerous thefts at the same locations, the pins on the map do not reflect all of the cases.

THEFTS

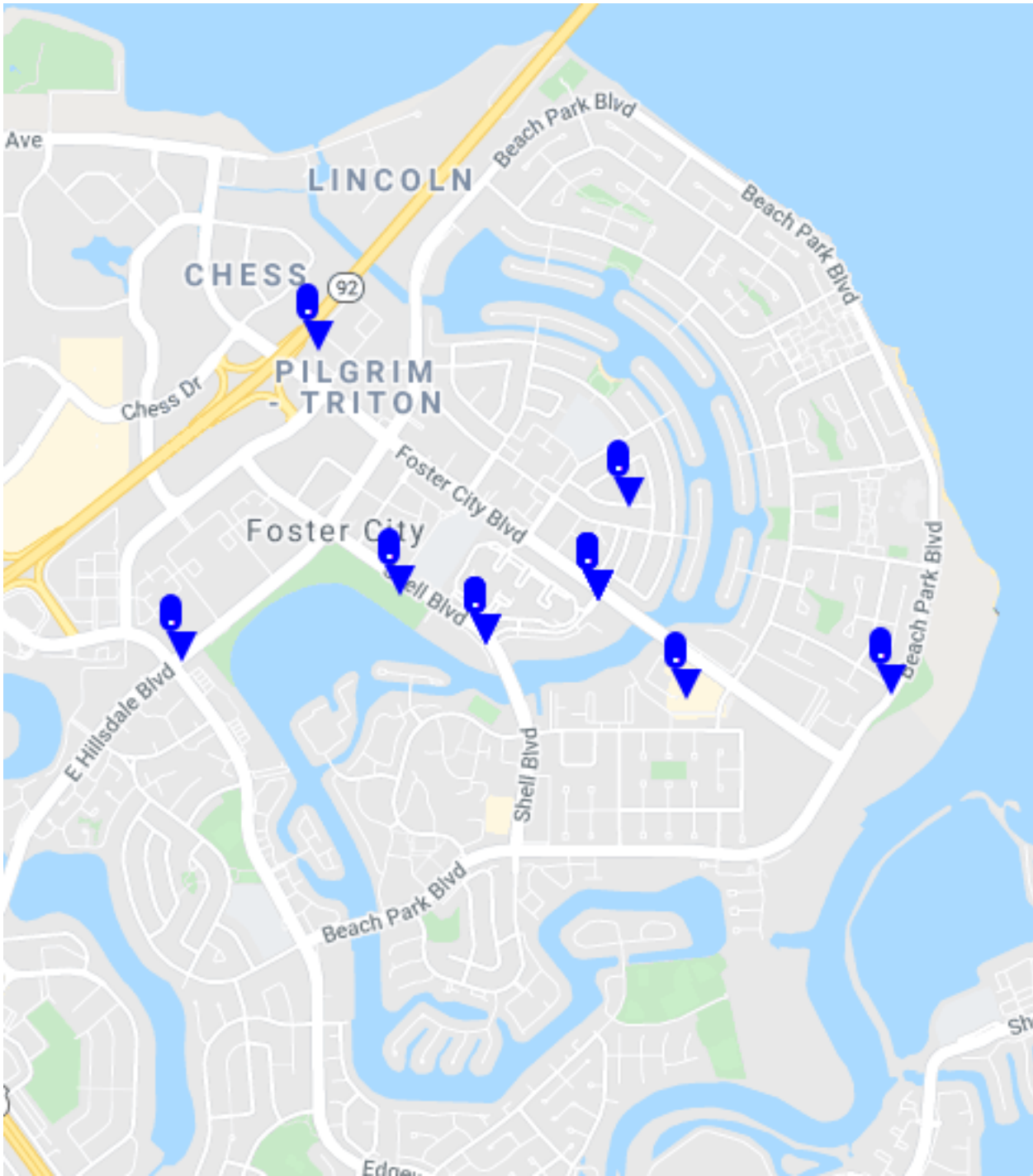


- There were 186 theft reports in 2019. Due to multiple thefts at the same locations, the pins on the map do not reflect all of the cases.

STOLEN VEHICLES



GRAFFITI



VANDALISM

