

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 22, 2002
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: PHILIP G. SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER
FROM: CHARLES E. SAMARRA, CHIEF OF POLICE *CS*
SUBJECT: BURGLARIES AT RESTAURANTS

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information in response to Mayor Donley's request at the February 26, Council meeting regarding a recent rash of restaurant burglaries in the City. I assigned Captain Joseph Rosboschil, the commander of the Investigations Division, to address your concern.

Currently, burglaries in the City are down by 15% through March 9 of this calendar year (CY2002). Ninety-one burglaries occurred in CY2002, compared with 107 burglaries for the same period in CY2001. We had 51 commercial burglaries year-to-date throughout the City. Of those 51 commercial burglaries, nine have occurred at restaurants. We have found a series of burglaries at a variety of restaurants, with the majority occurring on the weekends. The restaurant burglaries are as follows:

- February 1 - Capprico Ristorante (1118 King Street)
- February 2 - Jerry's Pizza and Subs (682 S. Picket Street)
- February 4 - Southside 815 (815 S. Washington Street)
- February 9 - Southside 815 (815 S. Washington Street)
- February 16 - King Fish (1120 King Street)
- February 21 - Starbucks (683 N. Washington Street)
- February 22 - Firehook Bakery (214 N. Fayette Street)
- March 3 - King Fish (1120 King Street)
- March 4 - Subway (407 E. Braddock Road)

The method of entry into each of these burglaries was either by breaking a window or glass door, or prying open a door to gain entry. A safe was removed in two cases, however cash kept on the property was the target in almost every case. Most of these burglaries have occurred after the businesses closed between Wednesday night and Monday morning.

To address restaurant burglaries, the detective assigned to the downtown area is responding to each crime scene to learn if there are any similarities. He has also visited some surrounding businesses in Old Town to alert them about the problem. He has asked their employees to be

vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department. In addition, detectives are working the hours that these offenses are occurring.

Since February 15, we have deployed the Police Department's Tactical Response Team (TRT) to conduct surveillance in the Old Town business community. Additionally, the midnight patrol division has been alerted to the problem and has been deploying resources into the affected areas.

On March 5, officers on patrol stopped a suspicious vehicle in the area of a burglary, however they were unable to link the occupants to the burglary. Detectives are looking at these individuals as possible suspects in other burglaries. No arrests have been made. It should be noted that we have not had another restaurant or commercial burglary in the Old Town area since that date.

The Police Department is committed to the use of all resources available to make an arrest(s), and bring these cases to closure.

cc: Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager