SUBJECT:                      Thefts of credit cards from unsecured offices
CR#     17-1831; 17-1832; 17-1833; and, 17-1834
DATE OF INCIDENT:  Thursday, November 16, 2017
DATE OF RELEASE:  Friday, November 17, 2017
NARRATIVE:

The University of Florida Police Department (UFPD) is currently investigating four reports of theft of credit cards from various office locations found throughout the University of Florida Campus. These locations include Fifield Hall, Stetson Medical Sciences Building, and the Dental Science Building. At present it is believed the suspect(s) entered into the office areas of the victims and took the credit cards from the wallet or purse of the victim which were left unsecured and unattended. The credit cards were subsequently taken off campus by the suspect(s) and used to make unauthorized purchases before the victim realized their credit card(s) were taken.

At this time there is no suspect description information available for those involved in these incidents. The investigation is however on-going and any future information will be published on the UF Public Safety social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook).

The UFPD firmly believes that crime is never the fault of the victim. These general safety tips are provided in an effort to assist members of the UF community.

Always secure doors to offices and labs when no one is inside. This is especially true after normal business hours, on weekends, and during holiday breaks. Even if one is out for a short period of time, secure all office space if ever left unattended.

Make sure that all lab/office staff carries their keys with them when leaving the area.

Secure valuables, purses, wallets, cell phones, etc. in locked cabinets and/or drawers within labs and offices.

Report suspicious activities or individuals immediately to law enforcement by calling 9-1-1 or for non-emergencies contact UFPD Dispatch at 352-392-1111. If you see something, say something.

Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see someone unfamiliar in your area, ask them if you can assist them and verify credentials if required and not seen. If you don’t feel
comfortable approaching them, and they are acting suspicious, please contact UFPD at 352-392-1111 immediately.

If you become aware that you have become a victim of any identity theft, theft, or suspicious activity, please contact your local law enforcement immediately. If you are on campus, call UFPD at 352-392-1111.

If you believe you were the victim of Identity Theft, please visit IdentityTheft.gov for information on what to do next and your rights as a victim of identity theft.

Review the available credit card theft/fraud prevention and monitoring features you may have and ensure you have signed up for those features.

For questions regarding information contained in this release, please contact Sergeant Timothy Peck at (352) 273-3300. If after hours, please call (352) 392-1111 (# UFPD (#8373) and ask to speak to a Patrol Supervisor. Sergeant Peck can also be reached via e-mail at: tpeck@ufl.edu or see the UFPD webpage at http://www.police.ufl.edu.

Released by: Sergeant Timothy Peck, UFPD Community Services Division
Reviewed by: Deputy Chief Darren Baxley, UFPD Associate Director
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