Stalking/Extortion Scam Report

This email is being sent to the campus community as a Timely Warning regarding a crime that occurred on campus property. The following is provided for your personal safety.

On April 30, 2019, the UCSB Police Department received a report of a stalking that occurred in campus student housing between March 2019 and April 2019. The victim reported that she was contacted via WhatsApp from a source she believed to be the Chinese police who said she owed money for unknown fees and if she did not send a payment she would be arrested. The victim was asked for her schedule to track her whereabouts and was told not to report anything to law enforcement or she would be arrested.

Since the initial report the Police Departments has received additional reports of international students receiving phone calls or messages from people pretending to be package couriers, police, or Consulate staff who ask for money or personal identifiable information, and threaten to arrest and deport the student if they don't comply.

UCPD is investigating this crime. If you have information that might assist in the investigation or have experienced similar behavior, please contact the UCSB Police Department at (805) 893-3446, or report crime information anonymously at www.police.ucsb.edu/contact-us/report-crime.

UCPD reminds the campus community of the following safety tips:

- If you start to feel concerns about a person, phone call or message, trust your instincts and try to remove yourself as quickly as possible from the potential threat, even if it feels awkward to do so.
- Do not let anyone make you feel obligated to provide your Social Security number, passport number, bank or credit card number, or other sensitive information. This also goes for sending money or making a bank transfer.
- Do not hesitate to contact UCPD to report any concerning persons, messages, or activities.
- If you are in fear for your safety or the safety of others, call 911 immediately.

Resources

- The UCSB CARE office provides confidential support and advocacy to students, staff and faculty impacted by sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. Call (805) 893-4613 any time (24/7) for confidential help. CARE website: wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/care.
• The UCSB Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) office provides individual counseling, group counseling, and wellness opportunities to students. Call (805) 893-4411 or stop by the Counseling and Career Services Building (599) to talk with someone. They also have 24/7 phone counseling available by calling (805) 893-4411. CAPS website: caps.sa.ucsb.edu.
• The Academic & Staff Assistance Program (ASAP) offers short-term counseling, consultation, wellness workshops, and assistance with threat management to faculty and staff. Call (805) 893-3318 to schedule an appointment. ASAP website: www.hr.ucsb.edu/asap
• The UCSB Police Department's CSO Safety Escort Program is a free service provided to members of the UCSB community as a safe alternative to walking alone at night. Call (805)893-2000 to request a CSO escort.

**UCPD encourages printing and posting of this Timely Warning for further community notification.**

WHAT IS THIS NOTICE?

In compliance with the Clery Act, Timely Warnings are issued by the UCSB Police Department when certain (Clery Act) crimes occurring on campus property, properties controlled by campus-affiliated organizations, or public property immediately adjacent to campus are determined to be a serious or continuing threat to the campus community. Timely Warnings are intended to prevent similar crimes and to provide information that will assist community members in protecting themselves.