

## **San Gabriel Valley Professionals Targeted with Extortion Threats**

A recent crime trend has been identified in the San Gabriel Valley which targets Asian Doctors, Dentists and other Professionals.

In the past week, numerous phone calls have been received from a subject claiming to be the member of a large Mafia family.

The caller demands approximately \$30,000 in U.S. currency and if the demand is not met he threatens to carry out acts of violence against the victim's family, or at the primary place of business.

Despite receiving the various threats, that range from drive by shootings, to kidnapping family members, there have been no reports of persons complying with the suspect(s) demands. To date the suspect(s) have not followed through on any of these threats.

The voice of the suspect caller indicates that he is a male, Chinese that speaks a Mandarin dialect. It is also believed that these calls are originating overseas. This may also be done to help conceal the caller's identity.

Despite the absence of any reported actions taken by the suspect(s), we strongly encourage anyone receiving similar calls to immediately report the incident to local law enforcement officials. It would also be wise to consider one's own personal security, discuss this incident with family members and coworkers, watch for and report suspicious persons and cars or situations that seem to pose a potential risk.

Extortion, Criminal Threats and Kidnapping are all serious crimes. If you think you are being targeted, or that you or a family member is in immediate jeopardy, immediately call 911.

The San Marino Police Department web-page has been updated. Please visit us at <http://www.ci.san-marino.ca.us/smpd/index.htm>. Chief John Schaefer will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at the Crowell Public Library on Tuesday night, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Please join us.