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Supervisor Gordon Mar holds hearing to shed light on property crimes

San Francisco - At Thursday’s Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Supervisor Gordon Mar held a hearing focused on home invasions, burglaries, and package theft. Crime victims, as well as the San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco District Attorney’s Office, and San Francisco Safety Awareness for Everyone presented at the request of Supervisor Mar, and more than 30 members of the Sunset District community came share their concerns.

“Many in the Chinese community believe that they are being disproportionately targeted as victims of these types of residential property crimes, and what we’ve heard supports this concern,” said Mar.

King Chan, a Sunset resident who was burglarized at his 19th Avenue home stated, “It was very scary to hear that burglars were in the house with my son… In this incident we not only had material loss but a sense of insecurity haunting over my family ever since.”

“Burglars targeted our job sites, cars and even our own houses where they have stolen over $80k in tools, equipment and personal items,” said Charlie Vaughan, a Sunset resident and general contractor who had been burglarized as five separate locations in the Sunset.

The San Francisco Police Department data stated that there were 2,826 cases of hot prowl, residential burglary, and residential robberies across the City in 2018 but did not have data on victim demographics and package theft.

“It is really important for us to have data on victim demographics so that we can assess whether the Chinese community is being targeted,” said Mar. “Package theft data needs to be tracked so that we can understand the problem and assess solutions.”

Supervisor Mar committed to convene a public safety working group and holding a public safety town hall in the Sunset District in late May in order to involve Sunset residents in developing crime mitigation strategies. Supervisor Mar is also looking into increasing language access for victims, supporting home security camera programs, organizing neighborhood watch groups, and better securing package deliveries.