



Clery Crime Alert

Thefts - Phone Snatchings

Columbia University Public Safety was informed of four phone snatchings that may have been committed by the same individual. The first incident occurred on September 27, 2025 at around 9:13 p.m. near Schapiro Hall (605 West 115 Street). The other three incidents occurred on September 29, 2025 at around 7:50 p.m., 9:08 p.m., and 10:13 p.m. near West 123 Street and Amsterdam Avenue, West 110 Street and Riverside Drive and West 123 Street between Broadway and LaSalle Street, respectively.

In each incident, an unidentified individual on a bicycle snatched the victims' phones from their hands, typically approaching from behind. CCTV footage suggests that the same person may have been involved in two of the cases, and the same bicycle was used in three.

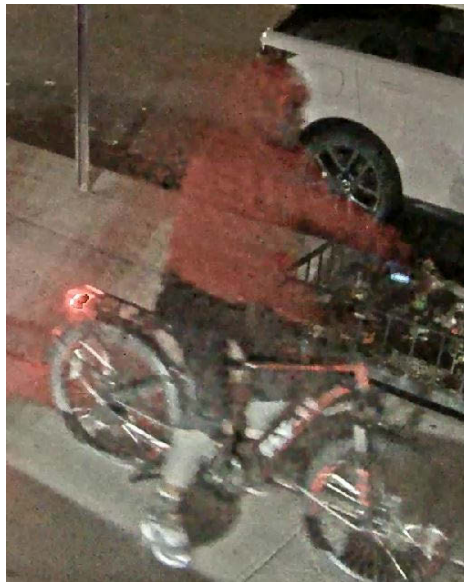
At least three victims have filed a report with the NYPD. If you have any additional information about this incident, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 212-854-2797.

Description of Reported Offender:

The suspect was observed on CCTV cameras and described by some of the victims as male-presenting with a dark complexion driving a black and red framed bicycle.

Harm Reduction Strategies:

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially when walking alone.
- Stay alert and tuned in to your environment. Remember that cell phones, earbuds and other electronic devices divert your attention away from your surroundings and block out environmental sound, which increases your vulnerability.
- Stick to the inner side of the sidewalk, away from the curb. This makes it harder for someone on a bike to reach you quickly.
- If you must use your phone in public, step into a store or CU building, use your phone, put it away and then exit the building.
- If you must use your phone, grip it firmly and keep it close to your body. Avoid holding it loosely or outstretched.
- Remember, both crowded and quiet streets can be targeted. In crowds, snatchers can disappear quickly; in isolated areas, there's less chance of witnesses.



DISCLAIMER: Clery Crime Alerts (Timely Warning Notifications) are distributed pursuant to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. Columbia University is required to alert the campus community when certain crimes occur in our Clery Act defined campuses that represent a serious or continuous threat to the community.

To see this and other Clery Crime Alerts please visit our [Public Safety website](#). For more information about Columbia University's Clery Act compliance efforts, please contact the Department's Clery Act Compliance Director, Roberto A. Pineda Sanchez at ps-compliance@columbia.edu.