

# **GREEN LINE ROBBERY ALERT!!!**

## **Team of young thugs target pregnant woman**

**Please read and pass on to another rider or post where others will see it**

From a concerned citizen:

Tuesday, October 7, 2008: On the Westbound Green Line, at Pulaski, at around 12:45 pm, a male teenager (African-American, aged approximately 16 or 17, 5' 8"-10", 150 lbs, black knit hat with white writing) attempted to steal my bag which was on the seat next to me. Luckily my arm was through the straps, and after several minutes of struggling, I was able to prevent the theft.

*No one* came to my aid. After the event, the suspect was trapped on the train as it proceeded to Laramie. I ran through the train car in vain looking for the call button to alert the train conductor to keep the doors closed at the next stop and call police, but could not find one.

The reason I could not find the call button—it was not one individual trying to steal my bag, but two individuals working as a team—one grabbed my bag while the other stood in front of the call button so no one could find it. Despite numerous pleas to the other riders, no one would help me detain the initial assailant, although some did call 911. I'm 7 months pregnant and therefore was not able to physically restrain him all by myself.

After the assailants got off at Laramie, a fellow rider alerted me to the tag-team approach and told me she had seen this exact scenario a couple weeks before—and thought it was the same individuals. A friend had the same thing happen to her in February, also on the Green Line but at California, although she was not as lucky as I, and did in fact have her bag stolen.

### **CITIZENS—PLEASE HELP ONE ANOTHER!**

Why did no one come to my aid? There were at least 25 other people on the train car with me. Do we live in such a culture of fear and indifference that we can no longer collectively combat petty crime and hooliganism?

What does this lack of action tell these young men? It tells them they can easily get away with crime—and next time they may well escalate their actions to a more dangerous level. We as citizens can help law enforcement and government toward the greater good by more regularly standing up to such criminal behavior.

### **I was not afraid—you do not need to be afraid either!**

What could fellow passengers have done to help (besides calling 911)?

- Assist me in pulling my bag away from the assailant
- Pass through to the next car to see if there was a call button in that one
- Pull the emergency door release which would trigger the train to stop
- Photograph the assailants with their cell phones and offer to send the pictures
- Physically prevent the assailant(s) from getting off the train car, until law enforcement could be summoned

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## **IF A SIMILAR CRIME HAPPENS TO YOU:**

- Report the crime and be sure that a police report is filed.  
Very few people actually report these crimes, which only puts others at risk.
- DO NOT let the police talk you out of filing a police report.  
This *commonly* happens, especially when it is only an attempted robbery (this happened with me—the rationale being that I still had my bag, so what’s the big deal...*attempted robbery is still a crime!*).
- Follow up with the CTA Security Office (312 681-4564).
- Follow up with the Chicago Police Department Transit Detail (312 745-4457).  
Both of these agencies can tell you if there were security cameras present where the crime took place, which might result in you being able to better identify your assailant.
- Help petition the CTA to install security cameras on ALL trains, platforms, and stations.  
It is inexcusable in our technologically advanced society to not have this protection. Security cameras deter crime. They also aid in catching criminals when crime does take place. If there had been cameras in place on my train car, on the Pulaski platform, or on the Laramie platform or station, these assailants might have been able to be identified.
- Help petition the CTA to provide more than one call button per car, to put them in places that cannot be easily blocked by an accomplice, and to mark their location more prominently.  
In my case, if there had been another call button at the other end of the train, it would have been pressed in time to keep the assailant on the train until the police could arrive. Also, if the location of the call button had been marked in more than one place on the train, it would have been possible to determine that someone was standing in front of it.

## **TIPS FOR PREVENTING SUCH CRIMES:**

- Keep your arm through the strap of your bag at all times.  
This way you can pull it back, if someone tries to snag it, as my experience shows.
- Try to avoid sitting in the seats that place you near the doors with your back to them. If these are the only seats available, be particularly vigilant.  
I was sitting in one of these seats. These seats present the greatest attraction to thieves due to their easy proximity to the doors and the fact that you can’t see them casing you with your back facing the door.
- Try to sit in the first car.  
If the call button is obscured or not working, at least you can knock on the train conductor’s door to alert him/her of the situation.
- If you notice someone obscuring the call button, ask them nicely and respectfully if they could move.

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