



HUNTINGTON BEACH
**NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH
NEWSLETTER**



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**

Date: February 2017 Vol. 45 No. 2

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY	911	Information Desk	714 960-8843
NON-EMERGENCY/DISPATCH	714 960-8825	Graffiti Hot Line	714 960-8861
POLICE Business Line	714 960-8811	Neighborhood Watch- Nilda Berndt	714 536-5933
Vacation House Checks (RSVP)	714 374-1507	Layout/Graphic Design	Tom Gaccione
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Compiled by Nilda Patiño de Berndt, HBPD Community Relations Specialist

JANUARY DONATION UPDATE

The Huntington Beach Neighborhood Watch Program (HBNW) **fiscal year** is from July 1 to June 30 each year. We have estimated we will need approximately \$24,300 this year to cover the various HBNW program expenses which include, but are not limited to, newsletter assembly, distribution costs, returned postage, mailing labels, etc. From the start of our fiscal year to now, we have received **\$8,968.00 in donations and newsletter advertisements- we have \$15,332.00 to go by June 30, 2017.** The HBNW Board thanks you and our advertisers for your support and generous donations. An \$8 donation pays for each subscriber's distribution costs; a \$10 donation helps with these costs and other needed expenses and puts your name in the Newsletter as a contributor; and a \$25 or more donation accomplishes the above, plus you will receive a HBNW sticker and a token of appreciation. Remember, HBNW is a non-profit organization; **donations are tax deductible.**

As a resident of the city, we encourage you to review the HBNW program budget and expenses.

We strongly suggest you sign up to receive your Newsletter either **electronically** or through the mail. **The Newsletter has valuable crime prevention information and crime statistics.** Donations are not necessary to receive the Newsletter, but if you wish to make a donation, please make your check payable to:

HB NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Send to: HB NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
PO BOX 5667
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92615

Or: HB POLICE DEPARTMENT
Attn: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
2000 MAIN ST.
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648

For more information please call (714) 536-5933.



**Ten Things
You Can Do
To Avoid Fraud**

US Federal Trade Commission

Hang Up on Phone Fraud

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. Here are some practical tips to help you stay a step ahead:

- 1. Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.
- 2. Do online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam." Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like "IRS call." You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.
- 3. Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.
- 4. Don't pay upfront for a promise.** Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job.

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Fake Checks and Scams *Provided by the Federal Trade Commission*

It's your lucky day! You just won a foreign lottery! The letter says so. And the cashier's check to cover the taxes and fees is included. All you have to do to get your winnings is deposit the check and wire the money to the sender to pay the taxes and fees. You're guaranteed that when they get your payment, you'll get your prize.

There's just one catch: this is a scam. The check is no good, even though it appears to be a legitimate cashier's check. The lottery angle is a trick to get you to wire money to someone you don't know. If you were to deposit the check and wire the money, your bank would soon learn that the check was a fake. And you're out the money because the money you wired can't be retrieved, and you're responsible for the checks you deposit — even though you don't know they're fake. This is just one example of a counterfeit check scam that could leave you scratching your head.

- **Fake Checks: Variations on a Scheme**
- **You and Your Bank - Who is Responsible for What?**
- **Protecting Yourself**
- **If You Think You're a Victim**

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, wants you to know that counterfeit check scams are on the rise. Some fake checks look so real that bank tellers are reporting being fooled. The scammers use high quality printers and scanners to make the checks look real. Some of the checks contain authentic-looking watermarks. These counterfeit checks are printed with the names and addresses of legitimate financial institutions. And even though the bank and account and routing numbers listed on a counterfeit check may be real, the check still can be a fake. These fakes come in many forms, from cashier's checks and money orders to corporate and personal checks. Could you be a victim? Not if you know how to recognize and report them.

- **Fake Checks: Variations on a Scheme**

Counterfeit or fake checks are being used in a growing number of fraudulent schemes, including foreign lottery scams, check overpayment scams, Internet auction scams, and secret shopper scams.

Check overpayment scams target consumers selling cars or other valuable items through classified ads or online auction sites. Unsuspecting sellers get stuck when scammers pass off bogus cashier's checks, corporate checks, or personal checks. Here's how it happens:

A scam artist replies to a classified ad or auction posting, offers to pay for the item with a check, and then comes up with a reason for writing the check for more than the purchase price. The scammer asks the seller to wire back the difference after depositing the check. The seller does it, and later, when the scammer's check bounces, the seller is left liable for the entire amount.

In secret shopper scams, the consumer, hired to be a secret shopper, is asked to evaluate the effectiveness of a money transfer service. The consumer is given a check, told to deposit it in their bank account, and withdraw the amount in cash. Then, the consumer is told to take the cash to the money transfer service specified, and typically, send the transfer to a person in a Canadian city. Then, the consumer is supposed to evaluate their experience — but no one collects the evaluation. The secret shopper scenario is just a scam to get the consumer's money.

Con artists who use these schemes can easily avoid detection. When funds are sent through wire transfer services, the recipients can pick up the money at other locations within the same country; it is nearly impossible for the sender to identify or locate the recipient.

(continued on page 3)

Fake Checks and Scams *(continued from page 2)*

• **You and Your Bank - Who is Responsible for What?**

Under federal law, banks generally must make funds available to you from U.S. Treasury checks, most other governmental checks, and official bank checks (cashier's checks, certified checks, and teller's checks), a business day after you deposit the check. For other checks, banks must make the first \$200 available the day after you deposit the check, and the remaining funds must be made available on the second business day after the deposit.

However, just because funds are available on a check you've deposited doesn't mean the check is good. It's best not to rely on money from any type of check (cashier, business or personal check, or money order) unless you know and trust the person you're dealing with or, better yet — until the bank confirms that the check has cleared. Forgeries can take weeks to be discovered and untangled. The bottom line is that until the bank confirms that the funds from the check have been deposited into your account, you are responsible for any funds you withdraw against that check.

• **Protecting Yourself**

Here's how to avoid a counterfeit check scam:

- Throw away any offer that asks you to pay for a prize or a gift. If it's free or a gift, you shouldn't have to pay for it. Free is free.
- Resist the urge to enter foreign lotteries. It's illegal to play a foreign lottery through the mail or the telephone, and most foreign lottery solicitations are phony.
- Know who you're dealing with, and never wire money to strangers.
- If you're selling something, don't accept a check for more than the selling price, no matter how tempting the offer or how convincing the story. Ask the buyer to write the check for the correct amount. If the buyer refuses to send the correct amount, return the check. Don't send the merchandise.
- As a seller, you can suggest an alternative way for the buyer to pay, like an escrow service or online payment service. There may be a charge for an escrow service. If the buyer insists on using a particular escrow or online payment service you've never heard of, check it out. Visit its website, and read its terms of agreement and privacy policy. Call the customer service line. If there isn't one — or if you call and can't get answers about the service's reliability — don't use the service.
- If you accept payment by check, ask for a check drawn on a local bank, or a bank with a local branch. That way, you can make a personal visit to make sure the check is valid. If that's not possible, call the bank where the check was purchased, and ask if it is valid. Get the bank's phone number from directory assistance or an Internet site that you know and trust, not from the check or from the person who gave you the check.
- If the buyer insists that you wire back funds, end the transaction immediately. Legitimate buyers don't pressure you to send money by wire transfer services. In addition, you have little recourse if there's a problem with a wire transaction.
- Resist any pressure to "act now." If the offer is good now, it should be good after the check clears.

• **If You Think You're a Victim**

If you think you've been targeted by a counterfeit check scam, report it to the following agencies:

- The Federal Trade Commission
- The U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- Your local consumer protection agencies. Visit www.naag.org for a list of State Attorneys General.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES, VEHICLE BURGLARIES, GRAND THEFT AUTO

HB police patrol areas are the North and the South. Patrol beats are 2-9. Your RD (Reporting District) is the half-mile square surrounding your home.

To locate your Beat and RD, please check the map on the back inside page. In most cases, your BEAT/RD is identified on your address mailing label.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

24 reports 12/16/16- 01/15/17
22 reports 11/16/16- 12/15/16

Five of the entries were due to **OPEN OR UNLOCKED** windows or doors. Five of these burglaries were committed during the day, ten were committed at night, and nine at an unknown time.

There were six garage entries.

There were two storage unit entries.

VEHICLE BURGLARIES

42 reports 12/16/16- 01/15/17
34 reports 11/16/16- 12/15/16

GRAND THEFT AUTO

51 reports 12/16/16- 01/15/17
37 reports 11/16/16- 12/15/16

BEAT 2

0 Residential Burglaries
3 Vehicle Burglaries
6 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries
None

Vehicle Burglaries
RD 453-1 RD 457-1
RD 462-1

Grand Theft Auto
RD 452-1 RD 453-1
RD 462-1 RD 476-3

BEAT 3

2 Residential Burglaries
6 Vehicle Burglaries
5 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries
RD 424-1 RD 437-1

Streets: Sailport Dr. and Oronsay Cir.

In RD 424, Sailport Dr., suspect is in custody.

In RD 437, Oronsay Cir., it appears suspect(s) entered the residence by removing a back window screen while the home was being fumigated. Suspect(s) ransacked the home, stole various items and fled.

Vehicle Burglaries
RD 434-1 RD 436-3
RD 443-1 RD 444-1

Grand Theft Auto
RD 427-1 RD 443-1
RD 446-2 RD 476-1

BEAT 4

3 Residential Burglaries
4 Vehicle Burglaries
1 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries
RD 339-1 RD 349-1
RD 461-1

Streets: Oceanaire Cir., 14th St., and Pacific Coast Hwy.

In RD 339, Oceanaire Cir., this resident was alerted via their cell phone which is tied to his home security camera. It appears suspects activated the system when they entered the garage. One suspect is described as white female, early 20's with light blond long hair past her shoulders. She was wearing a light hooded sweatshirt with the word "OBEY" on the rear, dark jeans, and dark Converse tennis shoes. There were two other suspects; unknown description.

In RD 461, Pacific Coast Hwy, it appears suspect gained entry by forcing a sliding glass door. Suspect is described as white male, 35 to 40 years old with blonde hair. He was wearing a black hat, gray sweater with a black collared shirt underneath,

white pants, and black shoes with white soles.

Vehicle Burglaries
RD 195-2 RD 348-1
RD 451-1

Grand Theft Auto
RD 451-1

BEAT 5

4 Residential Burglaries
6 Vehicle Burglaries
9 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries
RD 292-1 RD 293-1
RD 422-2

Streets: Joyful Ln., Lisa Ln., Yorktown Ave., and Sunray Ln.

In RD 292, Joyful Ln., it appears suspect gained entry into the garage. Suspect is described as white male, in his 20's, height 5'9" to 5'10", with sandy blonde shoulder length hair. Suspect was wearing a brownish jacket and dark pants. Suspect vehicle was described as white small or midsize sedan with paper plates.

In RD 293, Lisa Ln., it appears suspect(s) entered the garage through an unlocked side access door. Once inside the garage there was an unlocked door that leads into the residence. Various items were stolen and the suspect(s) fled.

In RD 422, Yorktown Ave., it appears unknown suspect(s) cut the metal lock assembly to the garage with an unknown tool. Various items were stolen.

Vehicle Burglaries
RD 292-2 RD 412-1
RD 413-2 RD 422-1

Grand Theft Auto
RD 199-1 RD 293-1
RD 412-4 RD 432-3

In RD 199, vehicle was recovered.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES, VEHICLE BURGLARIES, GRAND THEFT AUTO**BEAT 6**

5 Residential Burglaries
4 Vehicle Burglaries
9 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries

RD 263-1 RD 272-1
RD 282-1 RD 283-2

Streets: Arnett Dr., Oak Ln., Baron Cir., and Van Buren Ln.

In RD 263, Arnett Dr., suspect is in custody.

In RD 282, Baron Cir., it appears suspect(s) gained entry by possibly kicking in the small side door of the garage. Once inside, they removed items and fled.

In RD 283, Van Buren Ln., it appears an unknown suspect(s) entered the garage by unknown means. Suspect(s) cut the lock on a bicycle stored in the garage and fled with the bicycle.

There were three garage entries.

Vehicle Burglaries

RD 263-1 RD 271-1
RD 273-1 RD 281-1

Grand Theft Auto

RD 263-3 RD 272-2
RD 282-2 RD 283-2

BEAT 7

5 Residential Burglaries
3 Vehicle Burglaries
6 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries

RD 179-1 RD 198-1
RD 261-2 RD 262-1

Streets: Warner Ave., Moonfield Dr., Corsican Dr., and Viewpoint Ln.

In RD 198, Moonfield Dr., suspect is in custody.

In RD 262, Viewpoint Ln., it appears suspect(s) gained entry to the residence while it was being fumigated. The suspect(s) removed a window screen to enter the residence, removed various items, and fled.

There was one storage unit entry.

Vehicle Burglaries

RD 168-1 RD 251-1
RD 252-1

Grand Theft Auto

RD 178-2 RD 251-1
RD 252-1 RD 253-1
RD 262-1

In RD 251, vehicle was recovered.

BEAT 8

2 Residential Burglaries
5 Vehicle Burglaries
6 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries

RD 175-1 RD 197-1

Streets: Osterville Ln. and Midway Dr.

In RD 175, Osterville Ln., suspect may be known.

In RD 197, Midway Dr., it appears unknown suspect(s) used an unknown pry tool to pry open the front door of the residence. Once inside, the suspect(s) stole items and fled.

Vehicle Burglaries

RD 153-1 RD 155-1
RD 164-2 RD 167-1

Grand Theft Auto

RD 155-1 RD 164-1
RD 166-1 RD 173-1
RD 174-1 RD 176-1

BEAT 9

3 Residential Burglaries
11 Vehicle Burglaries
9 Grand Theft Auto

Residential Burglaries

RD 116-1 RD 139-1
RD 232-1

Streets: Spa Dr., Victoria Ln., and McFadden Ave.

In RD 116, Spa Dr., it appears suspect(s) broke the rear window of the owner's garage to gain access. Items were stolen

and the suspect(s) fled in an unknown direction.

In RD 139, Victoria Ln., it appears the point of entry was the rear glass sliding door. Suspect(s) rummaged through the home and then fled. Suspect # 1 is described as a black male, early 20's, no facial hair, with "close cut" haircut. Suspect # 2 is described as wearing dark clothing. Possible suspect(s) vehicle is described as a newer Jeep Cherokee, possibly black or dark gray, stock, with no unique markings.

There was one garage entry.

There was one storage unit entry.

Vehicle Burglaries

RD 126-2 RD 149-1
RD 241-1 RD 242-7

Grand Theft Auto

RD 127-1 RD 128-1
RD 139-1 RD 148-1
RD 241-2 RD 242-3

In RD 241, one vehicle was recovered.

The HBPD Facebook page has information on recent community events, law enforcement outreach, safety education, directed enforcement programs, and more. Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice

Visit us on Twitter for the latest updates on events in Huntington Beach:

www.twitter.com/HuntingtonBeachPD (@HBPD_PIO)

Save postage and save a tree; receive your Newsletter on-line. To sign up, send your request via e-mail to nberndt@hbpd.org.

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**COYOTE INCIDENT REPORTER-
 ON-LINE REPORTING NOW AVAILABLE**

The on-line Coyote Incident Reporter reporting form can be accessed via the City's website (www.huntingtonbeachca.gov) by going to the "I Want To" link followed by the "Report" link.

To arrange a *Neighborhood Watch Block Meeting*, please call Nilda Patiño de Berndt at 714-536-5933.

TEN THINGS TO AVOID FRAUD

(continued from page 1)

- They might even say you've won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.
5. **Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit, or Vanilla. Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.
 6. **Talk to someone.** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.
 7. **Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up and report it to the FTC. These calls are illegal, and often the products are bogus. Don't press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list.
 8. **Be skeptical about free trial offers.** Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. And always review your monthly statements for charges you don't recognize.
 9. **Don't deposit a check and wire money back.** By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you're responsible for repaying the bank.
 10. **Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at ftc.gov/scams.** Get the latest tips and advice about scams sent right to your inbox.

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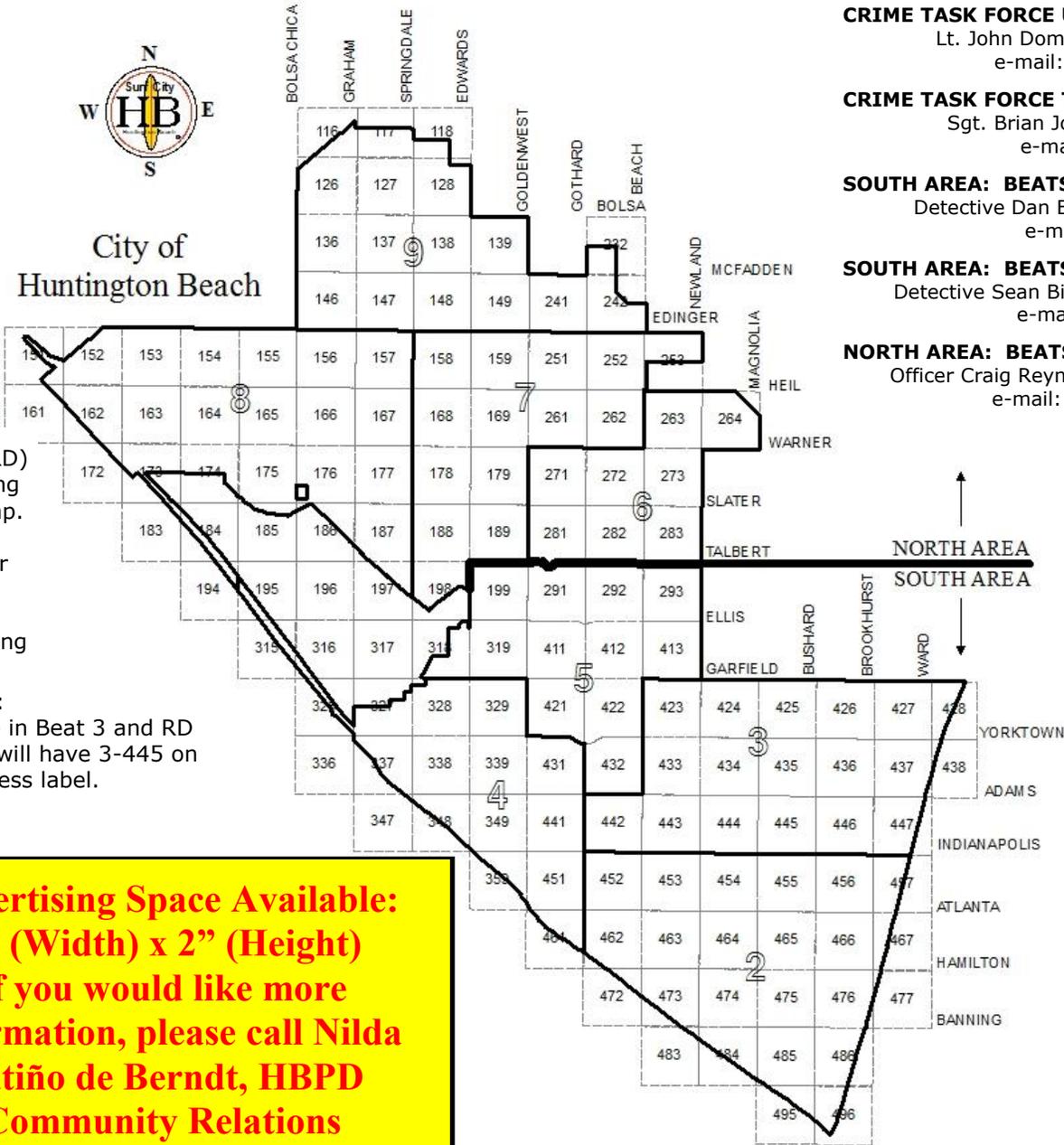
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City of Huntington Beach

Note:
Locate Your Beat and Reporting District (RD) by referring to this map. In most cases your BEAT and RD are on your mailing label.

Example:
If you live in Beat 3 and RD 445, you will have 3-445 on your address label.



CRIME TASK FORCE UNIT

Lt. John Domingo (714) 536-5588
e-mail: jdomingo@hbpd.org

CRIME TASK FORCE TEAM (CTF)

Sgt. Brian Jones (714) 374-1664
e-mail: bjones@hbpd.org

SOUTH AREA: BEATS 2 & 3

Detective Dan Boldt (714) 960-8810
e-mail: dboldt@hbpd.org

SOUTH AREA: BEATS 4, 5, & 9

Detective Sean Biggio (714) 960-8808
e-mail: sbiggio@hbpd.org

NORTH AREA: BEATS 6, 7, & 8

Officer Craig Reynolds (714) 375-5095
e-mail: creynolds@hbpd.org

**Advertising Space Available:
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information, please call Nilda
Patiño de Berndt, HBPD
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