

## Introducing Project 529 Garage

*Written by Shiree Lind, Crime Prevention Specialist*

*Irvine Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit*



The Irvine Police Department noticed a tremendous increase in reported bike thefts last year. From time to time, our officers come across subjects who they suspect may be riding a stolen bike. Our officers also find bikes that appear abandoned. Basic information is necessary in order to return a lost or stolen bike to its rightful owner. By registering your bike and providing your contact information, you will be assisting our officers and increasing your chances of reunification if your bike is lost or stolen.

The Irvine Police Department has had a bike registry for many years, which was designed to help return lost or stolen bikes. In order to make the bike registration process more modern and easier to access, the Irvine Police Department recently partnered with Project 529 – the premier online bike registry.

Project 529 registry will allow Irvine residents to easily register their bike and upload photos to help with identification. Project 529 registration will allow officers to easily access the information from a mobile device application and quickly determine bike ownership. This will increase your chances of getting your bike back in the event it is lost or stolen.

Project 529 bike registration with Irvine Police Department can be accessed online or through an app on your mobile devices. Irvine residents are encouraged to register their bikes at [project529.com/irvine](http://project529.com/irvine) or through the 529 Garage application.

If you have previously registered your bike with Irvine Police Department, please consider an additional registration with Project 529. The program has enhanced features and includes an international network of bike registrations and law enforcement agencies.

If your bike is lost or stolen, residents should immediately alert the local Project 529 network in the 529 Garage website or application.

Residents should also file a police report using the information contained in their Project 529 registration. Irvine residents can easily file a police report for lost or stolen bikes on the Irvine Police Department website.

Join us by registering all of the bikes in your household. And help us prevent bike theft by following the safety tips below:

- Always lock your bicycle to secure object like a bike rack or something secure that cannot be easily broken, cut or removed;
- Make use of bike lockers when available;
- Consider adding a tracking device to your bike;
- Use a U-lock to secure your bike frame and wheel to a bike rack;
- Store your bike inside your residence or in a garage where it can be hidden from public view; make sure your garage or storage is secured and checked on regularly.

Visit our website for additional information about riding your bike safely, crime prevention tips and registering your bike with Project 529:

<https://www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-police-department/bicycle-registration-and-bicycle-safety>

While riding your bike, enjoy nature and the many outdoor trails in Irvine. Be safe!