BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Three robberies reported near Ringer Park in Allston, Boston University police warn campus

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Three robberies have been reported near Ringer Park in Allston during the past month, prompting Boston Police to boost patrols and Boston University police to urge students to use caution following a recent string of high-profile armed robberies closer to campus.

The park is where 24-year-old Boston University graduate student Kanagala Seshadri Rao and a BU classmate he was with reported being mugged last April. Two weeks later, Rao was found shot to death steps from the park. No arrests have been announced in that case, which remains an active investigation, authorities said.

None of the recent reported robberies have involved BU students, according to a campus-wide e-mail university police sent Wednesday.

In the past 30 days, Boston Police have received reports of two unarmed robberies and one robbery during which a suspect showed a knife, said the e-mail from BU Police Chief Thomas Robbins.

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No arrests have been made, according to Boston Police Department spokeswoman Cheryl Fiandaca.

"We are increasing patrols and visibility in and around the park with both uniformed and plain clothes officers," she said in an e-mail Thursday. "We are asking people walking in the area during the evening to be vigilant."

She said anyone with information about any of the robberies is asked to call the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1-800-494-TIPS or text the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463).

Robbins also said that anyone who is the victim of a crime, witnesses a crime or sees any suspicious activity can call 911 or BU Police at 617-353-2121.

"We want to take this opportunity to remind members of our community to please follow basic safety precautions while walking on or off campus," the BU Police chief wrote in his e-mail. "Avoid dark, isolated places, walk in groups whenever possible, be aware of you surroundings at all times and avoid wearing headphones, ear buds or talking on smartphones."

Ringer Park is about one mile west of the western-most edge of Boston University's campus that extends along Commonwealth Avenue from the Packard's Corner area to Kenmore.

Between Sept. 23 and Oct. 9, four robberies were reported just south of BU's campus in Brookline. In each case, students or recent graduates of BU said they

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