

HELP STOP CRIME!

You can protect yourself and help your community by being mindful of the following suggestions:

Protect Your Vehicle:

- Do not leave valuables on dashboards, car seats or out in the open (i.e. money, cell phones, PDAs, laptops, GPS devices, etc.);
- If you store money in your ashtray, make sure your ashtray is closed and not visible to passersby;
- ALWAYS lock your car doors and windows (even if you'll only be gone for a few minutes). Thieves love to "car-fish" (i.e. go door-to-door fishing for an unlocked vehicle);
- Keep garage door openers/remotes out-of-sight. If stolen, change the remote frequency ASAP;
- Avoid leaving personal identification information in your car (except, of course, car registration and insurance information). Checks, mail, discount coupons with your name and address, etc. all provide additional opportunities for identity theft or, worse, could encourage burglaries.

Protect Your Home:

- ALWAYS lock your doors and windows. Many burglaries occur as crimes of opportunity. Don't give the bad guys any;
- ALWAYS close and lock your garage door. Garages are easy to burglarize because they often can't be monitored from the house and they sometimes provide easy access into the home;
- ALWAYS lock the interior garage door to your house;
- Keep spare keys (to autos, house, safe, etc.) in a secure and hidden location;
- Install a light-activated motion detector to the exterior areas of your home. This will warn you of lurking individuals and will often scare-off potential burglars;
- Install deadbolts to all exterior doors;
- If you will be away on vacation, stop mail delivery by contacting the U.S. Post Office, suspend newspaper delivery and ask a trusted neighbor to monitor your house for you. In addition, the Sheriff's Department will be happy to conduct routine "vacation checks" of your home if you notify them of your impending absence.

Protect Your Business:

- Avoid storing cash in insecure locations (like a desk or filing cabinet);
- Ensure that the Sheriff's Department has your current contact information for after-hours notifications;
- Remember to activate your alarm at the end of each business day;
- Limit the number of individuals who have access to the alarm deactivation codes and passwords;

- Change the alarm deactivation codes and passwords frequently (every six months or annually) and re-key locks periodically to avoid former employee access;
- Maintain interior lighting after-hours so that Sheriff's Patrol Units can see into the interior of your building as they do regular patrol checks at night;
- Train your employees on what to do in an attempted robbery situation;
- Ask the Sheriff's Department to give you a free security assessment of your building and operations to see what additional protections you can implement.

REPORT ~~SUSPICIOUS~~ QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITY – Don't be afraid to contact the Sheriff's Department if you see something "questionable". Don't think it has to be "suspicious" before you can call it in. If it seems out-of-place or peculiar to you, call the Sheriff's Department at (818) 248-3464. You never know what you might be witnessing—**CALL IT IN ANYWAY!** The Sheriff's Department will appreciate your diligence, even if it turns out to be nothing.