

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, September 21, 2011

SECURE YOUR BICYCLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT ; VIEW STOLEN BICYCLES RECOVERED BY MPD

Bicycling is a great form of exercise and it helps reduce pollution. It's fun for both adults and children. Weather you use a bicycle to get to and from school, for your daily work commute, or for exercise, it is important that you always secure it when it's not being used. In an effort to prevent thefts and to aid in the recovery of stolen bicycles, the MPD offers the following simple suggestions.



- Invest in a quality lock and use it whenever you are not riding the bicycle.
- Lock your bicycle in an area that is well-lit.
- If you are not going to use your bicycle for a significant period of time, locate a place (preferably inside) where you can safely secure it.
- Document the following information about your bicycle: make, size and serial number. Store this information in a safe place. The serial number is found underneath the bicycle between the crank arms and the bottom bracket. Keep all receipts for your bicycle, including the purchase receipt and repair receipts; these will help provide proof of ownership if your bicycle is stolen.
- Register your bicycle with the National Bike Registry.

The Metropolitan Police Department recovers hundreds of stolen and abandoned bicycles every year. This property is inventoried by the MPD's Evidence Control Division. Property not claimed within 90 days of recovery is considered abandoned. The MPD will advertise this property as abandoned and may dispose of any property not claimed within the designated timeframe. Bicycles not claimed may be auctioned through www.govdeals.com or donated. Before the recovered bicycles are auctioned or donated, images will be posted online.

While bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the MPD strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within six months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

» Has your bike been stolen? Photos of bicycles recovered by the MPD are now available for review online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/recoveredbikes>

» While bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the MPD strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). Read the MPD's frequently asked questions on registering your bike in the District of Columbia at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikereg>

» Get details on the bike helmet law in DC at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikesafety>

» The MPD offers theft prevention tips as well as a variety of other tips on ways to protect yourself and your property. Check out all of our safety tips online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM TEHFT

The National Insurance Crime Bureau recently released their “hot wheels” report, which details the most-stolen vehicles of 2011. Top ranking stolen vehicles in the District of Columbia are as follows: 1) 1998 Dodge Caravan; 2) 1996 Honda Accord; 3) 2001 Jeep Cherokee; 4) 2000 Honda Civic; 5) 2007 Toyota Camry; 6) 1996 Plymouth Voyager; 7) 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee; 8) 2003 Ford Crown Victoria; 9) 2004 Dodge Stratus; and 10) 2002 Dodge Intrepid (tied w/ Dodge Stratus for 9th). Even if your car isn’t on the top ten list for DC, you should take the proper precautions to reduce the risk of having your vehicle stolen. Following are some steps you can take to make your car — and the valuables it may contain — less attractive to thieves.

Exercise Common Sense

An unlocked vehicle with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to any thief, regardless of any anti-theft device you may use. The common-sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to avoid would-be thieves. You should always secure your vehicle, even if you’re parking for “just a minute.” Do this by:

- Removing your keys from the ignition.
- Locking all of your doors.
- Closing all of your windows.
- Parking in a well-lit area.
- Never leaving your engine running and vehicle unlocked while you run into your home, a convenience store or anywhere else.

Prevent Thefts from Auto

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won’t waste their time breaking into autos that don’t have valuables in plain sight.

- The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, or small electronic devices in your car in plain view.
- If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but securing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.
- Any time you’re shopping, place packages in the trunk, not in plain sight.
- Also, keep your car doors and windows locked — all the time!

- » Find out more about the top stolen vehicles in the area and across the nation at the National Insurance Crime Bureau’s website at: <https://www.nicb.org/>
- » The MPD offers a variety of safety tips, including a brochure on protecting your vehicle. Get more information and download brochures at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 9/21/12
2012: 63	
2011: 80	
% Change: -23.1%	
Closure Rate: 77.8% (49 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 9/15/12
Total Arrests: 717	
Weapons: 19	
Robbery: 13	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 17	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 16	
Narcotics: 88	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 9/15/12
Total Arrests: 59	
Weapons: 3	
Robbery: 6	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
Narcotics: 1	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 9/17/12
September: 76	
2012 Total: 1,374	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 9/21/12
2012: 11	
2011: 27	
% Change: -59.3%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. The CyberTipline is a Congressionally-mandated means for reporting crimes against children. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **1-800-843-5678** or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody’s business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at **(202) 727-9099** to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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