

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, November 16, 2012

INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THEFT AND CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING OF MOBILE DEVICES

On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski announced the signing of a new bilateral agreement with Mexican Communications Under-Secretary Hector Olavarria Tapia to combat the theft and cross-border trafficking of mobile devices between the United States and Mexico. The agreement builds further on the recent participation of U.S. and Mexican mobile providers in an international stolen device database, which will prevent mobile devices stolen in New York, Los Angeles and other U.S. cities from being re-activated in Mexico, and stolen Mexican devices being re-activated in the U.S. market. Chairman Genachowski and Under-Secretary Tapia were joined at the agreement signing at FCC headquarters by Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier, who has been leading the call to action on the issue of cell phone theft.

Among other measures the FCC and Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transport (SCT) will closely track, analyze, and report progress in preventing mobile device theft. Both agencies will also develop and share best practices with respect to theft prevention and consumer education, especially the use of pins, passwords and mobile apps designed to protect sensitive information on mobile devices. Today's action is just the latest step forward in the FCC's 'PROTECTS Initiative' to combat mobile device theft and trafficking.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said, "New mobile devices are delivering tremendous benefits. They help connect, inform, and save lives. They are helping grow the American economy – and economies around the world. But the rapid adoption of smartphones and tablets is also creating very real safety concerns. Today's announcement cracks down on the growing trend of stolen mobile devices. U.S. and Mexican collaboration to block reactivation of stolen mobile devices in both countries sends a clear message to thieves and criminal gangs: this is a crime that does not pay."

In Washington, D.C., New York and other large American cities, roughly 40% of all robberies now involve cell phones – endangering the physical safety of victims, as well as the security of the personal information on the stolen devices. In addition to the loss and injury experienced during the initial crime, there is an added risk of identity theft if the stolen smartphone isn't password protected to prevent a thief from getting access to private information on the device.

Smartphone owners are encouraged to do what they can to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of a robbery. The MPD offers the following tips:

- **Protect your Information.** Make sure your phone is password protected before you walk out the door. That way, if your device is lost or stolen, no one can run up your phone bill or access your online accounts.
- **Don't Walk and Text.** Texting while walking is dangerous, especially in crosswalks and other areas with heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Not only that, when you're texting, you're not paying attention to your surroundings, which make you an easy target for criminals.

» Read the complete news release issued by the FCC at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/chairman-signs-new-bilateral-accord-combat-mobile-phone-theft>

» View the November 13, 2012 press conference in its entirety online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8kvdZCU1Us&feature=share&list=UUIWl0h4WenWWPIJrqU7GGsg>

» The MPD offers a variety of safety tips, including a complete brochure on robbery prevention. Read the tips online or download brochures at:

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



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INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THEFT AND CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING OF MOBILE DEVICES << CONTINUED FROM FRONT >>

- **Pocket the Phone.** Consider putting your smartphone away for a bit. If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises. Don't forget that ubiquitous white cord may indicate to would-be thieves that you're carrying a certain brand of smart phone.
- **Be Alert.** Always be aware of your surroundings. Wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway—stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.

If someone tries to rob you, don't resist. Give up your property—don't give up your life. Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

TWENTY-FOUR NEW OFFICERS ARE HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 24 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, November 16, 2012, at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Southwest DC.

Training awards presented during the ceremony recognized Officer Calisa Carter (Academic Training Award); Officer Jared Weinburg (Vehicle Skills Awards); Officer Christopher Pinachos (Firearms Training Award); and Officers Calisa Carter and Christopher Pinachos (Physical Skills Awards). The new officers all completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the police academy, which includes a full program of physical, classroom, and firearms training to prepare them for the challenges of being a police officer. The subjects covered include laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, and ethics. In addition, recruit officers receive skills training in firearms, operation of emergency police vehicles, self-defense, advanced first aid, and much more.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is focused on building a crime-fighting partnership with the community, and developing our own promise and potential as a department. Police work requires a certain type of individual — one who has strong interpersonal skills and the motivation to work with our partners to help build strong, safe and healthy communities throughout the District of Columbia.



» For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at:

<http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>

» The MPD is looking for volunteers to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPD in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details on the Reserve Corps and other volunteer programs are available at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/volunteer-opportunities-mpdc>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service — positive or negative — through MPD's email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

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 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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