

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, November 14, 2014

REPORT CRIMES ONLINE USING THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CITIZEN ONLINE REPORTING TOOL

The Metropolitan Police Department's Citizen Online Reporting Tool gives users the ability to report certain types of incidents that don't require a police officer to witness or gather the information. Through the Citizen Online Reporting Tool, you can now report the following types of incidents:

- Lost property
- Lost vehicle tags
- Stolen vehicle tags
- Theft/theft from auto
- Destruction of property
- Damage to property

While not every crime is avoidable, there are certain precautions you can take to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of certain property crimes. 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, so follow these tips to reduce your risk!

- **Keep Your Valuables Out of 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 electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, laptop computers, etc.) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.
- **Secure Your GPS Device.** While many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of the vehicle, the MPD encourages anyone who uses a portable GPS device to take it with you, along with any other items of value, when you park the car.
- **Use Your Trunk.** 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.
- **Don't Tempt Thieves.** Don't flaunt your new purchases. Use discretion when making purchases, especially if you have a large amount of cash on you.
- **Shop Smart.** Any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.
- **Lock It Up.** Keep your car doors and windows locked—all the time!

Select	Incident Type	Definition	Examples
<input type="radio"/>	Damage to Property	Incident where physical damage is caused to your property, but there is not enough information or circumstances do not warrant it being reported as a crime.	(1) You hit a deer while driving, and your driver's side mirror is broken. (2) You park your vehicle in a public garage. When you return a couple days later, there is a large dent in the left back bumper of your vehicle. It is unknown what caused the damage.
<input type="radio"/>	Destruction of Property	Incident when someone willfully causes, or attempts to cause, physical destruction of your property.	Someone willfully breaks a window in your garage while you are sleeping in the adjoining house. A witness reports that he saw two juveniles running from the side of the garage earlier that morning.
<input type="radio"/>	Lost Property	Personal or commercial property that is lost, missing or misplaced.	You leave your purse somewhere in a convenience store while shopping but do not realize it for several hours.
<input type="radio"/>	Lost Tags	Incident where tags (license plates) are lost or missing from a vehicle not due to theft.	The tags fall off your motorcycle during a traffic crash, or if your car's front license plate has fallen off.
<input type="radio"/>	Stolen Tags	The wrongful taking or use of tags (license plates) from your vehicle without your permission. Includes attempts to steal your tags also.	You return to your vehicle after work and find your license plates stolen.
<input type="radio"/>	Theft	The wrongful taking of another's property without force or the threat of force. Excludes thefts of and from motor vehicles (e.g., cars, motorcycles, segways, etc.). Includes attempts to commit theft also.	A stranger picks up your iPhone from the counter of a restaurant when you walked away for a couple minutes to speak to a friend. The stranger leaves the store before you notice your phone is gone.
<input type="radio"/>	Theft from Auto	Theft of another's property from his/her motor vehicle. Includes attempts to steal property from your vehicle also.	You leave your car unattended during the summer to run into the dry cleaner. You leave the driver's window rolled down. When you return, you find the backpack you left on the front seat missing.

- » To file a police report online, or to learn more about this application, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/onlinepoliceport>
- » The MPD offers a variety of safety tips to help reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Download the brochures or read them online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

EMAIL LIST GROUPS HELP STRENGTHEN ONLINE COMMUNITY

The MPD police-community Yahoo discussion groups were created for members of the community so they could share public safety information in an effort to help reduce crime and the fear of crime. Information shared on the email list groups include community announcements, meeting dates, crime statistics, safety concerns and ideas, crime reports, and safety tips. The listserv also acts as a virtual community, which helps strengthen partnerships between the local police and the communities they serve. It provides yet another means of visibility and accessibility for the community.



» For more information or to get the Yahoo group name of your district email list group, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/emailgroups>

The listserv discussion groups are designed to attract area residents, employees, students, business owners, elected officials, and government agency representatives interested in coming together to solve problems and share public safety-related information that will improve the quality of life in each police district. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders and DC service providers to engage in ongoing online interaction with police, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, holidays and weekends.

Information posted to the groups is intended to benefit members of a specific police district. If you don't know your police district, you can find out by visiting access the DC Guide to easily locate a PSA and other resources within a geographic area.

Successes of the police listserv include:

- Faster dissemination of information, especially community meetings and events.
- Assistance with identifying and taking action against nuisance properties.
- Successful collaborations among community groups, elected officials and police.
- Greater assistance with lookouts — from missing persons and pets to found property
- Recognizing good work and identifying areas of service that need improvement.
- Gauging the community's concerns.
- Developing relationships, especially when a police district gets a new commander or new patrol officers
- Identifying community leaders and activists, who are eager to join the group to let their voices be heard.
- Sharing information between districts.
- Listserv-to-Listserv communications (MPD postings are regularly shared with other large community online groups, with the potential of reaching 20,000 online users in one day.)

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 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>.

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police

Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

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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