

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 20, 2015

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

The Metropolitan Police Department 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 with New Purchases

Hide Your Packages. 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/onlinepolice-report>

» 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>

STOLEN BICYCLE OR CELL PHONE? CHECK OUT ONLINE PHOTOS OF PROPERTY RECOVERED BY MPD

Every year, the Metropolitan Police Department recovers hundreds of stolen and abandoned bicycles, and hundreds of lost and found electronic devices. This property is inventoried by the MPD's Evidence Control Branch. 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. Recovered property not claimed may be auctioned through www.govdeals.com or donated. Before any recovered bicycles are auctioned or donated, images will be posted online.

Any person or entity having a right of claim to any item of property pictured online must appear in person to the Evidence Control Branch. To claim property pictured via one of the links above, individuals must provide the MPD's Evidence Control Branch with government identification; a bar code included with the image; and proof of ownership of property OR documentation that a police report (CCN) was filed.



» Photos are uploaded to Flickr accounts on a regular basis. For links to these sites, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/recover>

» All recovered property is managed by the Evidence Control Branch. Members of the ECB may be contacted at:
17 DC Village Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 727-3230

MPD OFFERS REMINDERS ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The Metropolitan Police Department would like to remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings to ensure the safe travels of other drivers and pedestrians on our city streets. Drivers are reminded to be vigilant in looking out for pedestrians. When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street in crosswalks with traffic control devices.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.
- Keep alert! Dawn and dusk offer convenient shadows for muggers and other crooks
- Runners are also reminded to ALWAYS carry identification with them when they go out.

» The MPD offers safety tips for walkers, runners and bikers online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/runners>

» If carrying a license seems too inconvenient, please consider purchasing an identification bracelet or tag for your shoe. New products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes have recently come on the market. A simple internet search for "identification bracelet" will provide numerous results.

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>.

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>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. 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>.

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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