

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, December 7, 2012*

## AVOID PICKPOCKETS WITH THESE SIMPLE THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

Protecting yourself from a pickpocket or other thief is not as difficult as you would think; just a few thoughtful precautions can be enough to give you peace of mind and confidence in going about your day. What can you do to protect yourself? The best protection is to eliminate the opportunity of becoming a victim in the first place.

### Tips for Men

- The target areas are back trouser pockets, and suitcoat and sports jacket pockets, located both inside and out. A pickpocket generally avoids front trouser pockets, and especially buttoned or zippered pockets.
- If you have to carry your wallet in an unbuttoned jacket, coat or pants pocket, be sure it holds only what you can afford to lose. Keep large sums of money, credit cards, IDs, in your front pocket or any buttoned or zippered pocket. Some people even place a rubber band around their wallet, because the rubber band creates friction and rubs against the fabric of your pocket if someone is attempting to remove it without your knowledge. The best place for keys is on a chain attached to your clothing.
- Never pat your pocket to see if your wallet is there; this lets a criminal know the exact location of your valuables.
- Larger-size "pocket secretaries" are particularly inviting to pickpockets, and relatively easy to steal.

### Tips for Women

- Do not carry your wallet in your purse. Conceal it in a buttoned or zippered pocket where it doesn't show a bulge.
- Use a purse that is difficult to open. A purse with a zipper or snaps is best.
- If you are carrying a shoulder bag, place the strap(s) diagonally across your body, as opposed to carrying it on one shoulder. This keeps the purse in front of you, instead of at your side or behind you, which sometimes happens with purses with long straps. If you are carrying a hand bag, then make sure to hold it close to the front of your body, instead of holding it on your wrist or loosely in your hand.
- Never leave your purse unattended on a store counter or in a grocery shopping cart.
- What can you do to protect yourself? The best protection is to eliminate the opportunity of becoming a victim in the first place.

Whether it's lost or stolen, your property may end up in the possession of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). The MPD recovers hundreds of lost and found appliances and electronic property with unknown owners every year. This property is inventoried by the MPD's Evidence Control Division, and property not claimed within 90 days of recovery is considered abandoned. The MPD now posts images of some recovered items online before disposing any property not claimed within the designated timeframe. Lost and found appliances and electronic devices not claimed may be auctioned through [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com).

» For more information on recovered items and to view photos of some of the appliances and electronic property at:

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

» Reduce your risk of becoming a victim of theft or pickpocketing. Check out the MPD's prevention tips, which include common misconceptions about pickpockets, at:

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

» Smart phone theft is on the rise. If your smart phone is lost or stolen, brick it. Learn more at:

<http://brickit.dc.gov>



## MPD CONTINUES EFFORTS TO KEEP COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED ON FILING POLICE COMMENDATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is committed to providing quality, professional service to all members of the community. The MPD does its best to recognize individuals who provide exemplary service. Community members or visitors to DC who have had a positive experience with an MPD officer or civilian employee are invited to share their positive experiences by submitting a commendation.

Sometimes, however, individuals may feel that a member of the MPD has failed to meet that standard by engaging in misconduct or using excessive force. In these situations, individuals are encouraged to report this information to the MPD or the District of Columbia's Office of Police Complaints (OPC). The Office of Police Complaints is a District Government agency that is independent of the MPD, and its mission is to receive, investigate, and resolve police misconduct complaints filed by the public against MPD and DC Housing Authority Police Department officers.

The MPD will investigate all complaints, including anonymous complaints, in a fair, thorough, and impartial manner. OPC has the authority to investigate complaints alleging harassment; use of unnecessary or excessive force; use of language or conduct that is insulting, demeaning, or humiliating; discrimination; retaliation for filing a complaint with OPC; or failure to wear required identification or refusal to provide name and badge number when requested to do so by a member of the public.

» For more information on filing a commendation or complaint, visit :  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/citizencomplaints>

» OPC complaint forms and information sheets can be obtained by:

- Visiting OPC at 1400 I St., NW, # 700, Washington, DC 20005
- Calling OPC at (202) 727-3838
- Calling the OPC 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 866-588-0569
- Visiting OPC's website, <http://policecomplaints.dc.gov>

» OPC complaint forms can be submitted:

- In person or by mail to the address above
- By fax to (202) 727-9182
- By dropping forms off at any MPDC district station

» To file a complaint with the MPD, you may:

- Visit any MPD District station or facility
- Call (202) 727-4385 or the 24-hour hotline at 800-298-4006
- Visit MPD's website at [mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov)
- Email the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) at [citizen.complaints@dc.gov](mailto:citizen.complaints@dc.gov)
- Call the IAB TTY number at (202) 898-1454
- Submit your complaint in person at any MPD facility or by mail to: Internal Affairs Bureau, Metropolitan Police Department, 51 N Street, NE, 4th Floor, Washington, DC
- Fax your complaint to (202) 727-5116

### 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](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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