

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 29, 2016

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>

BIKE SMART: KNOW SAFE BIKING PRACTICES AND SECURE YOUR BICYCLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT

Bicycling is a great form of exercise and it helps reduce pollution. It's fun for both adults and children. Whether you use a bicycle to get to and from school, for your daily work commute, or for exercise, it is important to follow the DC Bike Laws. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) have worked together to develop a Pocket Guide to DC Bike Laws designed to inform both cyclists and law enforcement officers of the rights and responsibilities of cyclists on DC Streets. This guide includes information on traffic laws, common traffic crashes and enforcement errors, bicycling infractions, safety equipment, what to do in case of a bike crash, bike parking/security, as well as other information. This handy guide is available for download from the DDOT website.

In addition to being safe on the road, it is important that you always secure your bicycle 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.

While bicycle registration is not 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 that may be.

» To learn more about the District's Bicycle Program visit:

<http://ddot.dc.gov/page/bicycle-program>

» WABA and DDOT have prepared a Pocket Guide to DC's Bike Laws which is available at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/publication/bike-laws-pocket-guide-dc-bike-laws>

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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