



NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO

ELAINE BRYANT • CHIEF OF POLICE

For Immediate Release:

For further information, Contact:

Denise Alex-Bouzounis 614-774-7828

Community Response Bureau

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Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

When to Report Suspicious Behavior

- Unusual noises like screaming, breaking glass, loud crashes, prying or alarms.
- Suspicious persons attempting to break into a house/checking to see if doors and windows are unlocked.
- Suspicious vehicles parked on the street or in your neighbor's driveway.
- Anyone pointing a weapon or making threatening statements. *Ohio is an open carry state but weapons may be prohibited in certain locations.*
- A solicitor who does not appear to have a valid reason for coming to your door, seems overly aggressive or forceful. Thieves will occasionally knock on a door to see if anyone answers.

How to Report a Crime

- Report crimes or missing property as soon as you become aware so police can respond and investigate – it could help catch the criminals and prevent future crimes!
- For non-emergencies in Columbus, call (614) 645-4545. For life-threatening emergencies call 911.
- You can remain anonymous but be advised that doing so will limit the actions an officer can take.

How to Prevent Crime or Protect Yourself

- At home – lock your doors and windows and do not let unknown persons inside.
- Ensure exterior lights are working and consider having an alarm system or cameras.
- When out & about, look up from your phone/remove earbuds to see & hear if someone approaches.
- Walk with friends – especially at night – as criminals often target individuals.
- Let someone know where you are going, when you'll be back, and update them if you'll be late.
- Avoid shortcuts through dark alleys or vacant streets.
- Only accept rides from people you know and trust.
- Do not display your money; carry only money you need for the day.
- Change daily patterns and if possible, take different routes to work or to school. Park in different locations that are well-lighted.
- When driving, always park in well-lit areas, lock your doors and do not leave valuables in your car.
- Know your neighborhood! What hours are stores and restaurants open? Where are the police and fire stations, libraries, and schools? You might need them in an emergency.

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