

Safety and Security Committee  
Feb. 28, 2017

We held a neighborhood meeting concerning vandalism by students after dismissal from the middle and high schools, package theft, tv and bike theft from garages, rummaging through unlocked parked cars, panhandling on private property, and trespassing. We also discussed a recent night time home invasion.

Officer Buchanan, our Outreach Officer of 2 years, was present to facilitate. He explained that he collaborates with 5 other Outreach officers who work in the same capacity to work together to reduce or extinguish neighborhood concerns.

Many of these crimes are crimes of opportunity. Today there are more young children not supervised than in the past.

Professional criminals look for abandoned houses, bushes, and darkness to be used to their advantage.

This neighborhood has an action plan in place, with the most important actions being knowing your neighbors, having a neighborhood phone/email contact sheet, and watching out for each other.

Attached is a list of Safety Tips devised by one resident.

Officer Buchanan Suggested the following actions:

- Interact with your community and engage with people walking down the street.
- Install motion sensor lights.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked.
- Keep the interior door in your garage locked.
- Be aware of your property by keeping purses, keys, and electronics out of sight.
- Keep windows closed and locked.
- Close drapes to hide what is inside of the house.
- Have house numbers visible for the police and fire departments.
- Place neon on jimmy bars.

- Choose to have packages only delivered with a signature or to a neighbor.
- Put up an Alarm Sign and/or Beware of Dog sign.
- Install RING- an electronic system that rings and records a video of people passing your home or of packages being delivered that can be synced with your phone.
- Volunteer to get involved in the community at our schools, and the teen center.
- Have your house look inhabited when you are away by using timers, having neighbors pick up flyers, mail, and newspapers, and having neighbors watch your house.
- Call the non emergency number, 410-313-2200 if there are peddlers or hawkers without a visible license.
- Call 911 if you see suspicious people on the street or on the bike paths after 10 pm. If you can generate a time, date, description, and timeline, this may be helpful for the police at a later time.
- Check [Next Door Stevens Forest](#), Howard County Police Facebook, or [hcpd.org](http://hcpd.org) -> police newsroom -> crime bulletin to track local crime.

The more often you call when you see something suspicious, the more often the police respond, the fewer intruders will come to your street.

#### Actions to be taken:

- Install a Dead End Sign at Pamplona and Kilimanjaro to deter random traffic.
- Install the warning sign at the bike path: Paths are closed after 10pm.
- Install a street light half way down the street.-To be Decided.
- Have the Police Auxiliary Unit come your home for a safety inspection. They can be accessed at [hcpd.org](http://hcpd.org).

#### Ready HoCo:

Steve and I attended a meeting on being prepared for community hazards. We also spoke with the Chief of Fire and Rescue concerning the storage of hazardous materials on residential properties.

Our next Neighborhood meeting will be on March 21 to discuss vandalism and destruction on an HOA property.