

## **Message From OMCA Safety & Security Committee**

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### **Summer Safety & Security Tips**

As summer approaches many of you will be traveling and away from your home. There are certain steps you can take to protect your home from being an easy target against home invasion when traveling or just on a daily basis.

- **Your House is Empty During the Day**

An article from the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at the University of Albany says that burglars are more likely to target homes that are usually vacant during the day. They may knock on your door just to confirm no one is home.

- **Lock All Doors and Windows**

Make sure all doors and windows are locked, especially on the ground floor, and inside of your garage. Your garage door should be down and locked. Installing a dead bolt on all exterior doors also makes it more difficult to enter your house. Installing a steel door is the safest protection against someone kicking in your front door.

- **Don't Let Mail Pile Up**

Either ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers, or have the Post Office hold your mail and stop the newspaper. Seeing piled up mail and newspapers signals that you are away.

- **Make Your Yard Hard to Enter**

Thieves will look for the easiest way to enter your home, preferably through the back windows. The more you can do to slow down the access to your home, the less chance they will succeed entering your home.

- **Window Air Conditioning Units**

These units make access easy. The unit can easily be kicked in, and the thief than can climb into that room.

- **Don't Post Your Travels on Social Media**

Post pictures of your trip after you come home.

- **Limit the Visibility of Valuable Items**

Have valuable items less visible to see from outside of your home. Place your valuables away from windows, or keep them in a safe or lockbox. Close your drapes at night and when you are away from home.

- **Lack of Visibility**

Tall and overgrown landscaping make it easier your home to be approached with no one able to observe this happening. Trim bushes reducing an area for thieves to hide as they approach your home.

- **Alarm and Camera Systems, Outdoor Lighting**

With the choice of alarms and camera systems, you can monitor your home from your phone. Recording a suspicious person approaching your home can also assist the police to investigate a burglary. Have outdoor lights on a timer or motion activated. Outdoor lighting is a deterrent for criminal activity.

- **Lock Your Car**

Keep all valuables out of sight or not in your car. Always lock your car.

If you see someone or a vehicle in your neighborhood that is suspicious, call the HCPD:

**Emergency: 911 or Non-emergency 410-313-2200**

Be observant and be able to be a detailed witness. The more information you report will increase the ability of the Police to assist you.

*Have a Safe and Secure Summer!*

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