

Hi Neighbors,

There is a concern amongst neighbors regarding crime in the area. In the past month, a couple houses have been broken into. We would just like to share some ideas on keeping each other safe.

We need to show that we're watching the neighborhood. One thing I do is to take pictures. If I see something, take a photo on your camera or phone. I do it with suspicious cars (try to include the license plate) as well as people. In fact, I'll try to keep my camera near the door just in case the doorbell rings. Even if it's not museum quality, the photo could be useful after the fact since it will give an indication of time and location. Remember, that anything out in the public can be photographed. But you cannot shoot inside people's homes without their permission, as they have a reasonable expectation of privacy according to law.

Please pass this info on to your neighbors. Thank you all and be safe.

Package and mail theft

It's the holiday season and packages on your door are a target. If you can, have packages sent to your workplace. Or tell UPS and Fedex not to leave packages. You may want to consider leaving a note at your door that packages should be held and picked up at their station.

If your mail is stolen, it is a federal crime. Please report it to the post office.

Suspicious activity

There are reports of people that look out of place, looking in people's houses or yards. A couple weeks ago some homeless people were caught breaking in around Swift Avenue. There are homeless encampments in the greenbelt areas.

Depending on the situation, suspicious activity can be reported to:

- 911 for emergencies or
- 206-625-5011 for the non-emergency police line

Door-to-door solicitors

There has also been an increase of solicitors. They may say they are selling newspaper subscriptions or funding neighborhood clean up efforts. Ask for ID, literature and/or a receipt. Don't be fooled by a name. Some people use sympathetic sounding names, or names that closely resemble those of respected, well-established charities.

The best policy is to donate directly through an organization's website. Know a charity before you give. Check them out at the Better Business Bureau (BBB.org).

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