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**CONTACT: 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief John M. Roach**

## **DETROIT POLICE OFFER HOME INVASION PREVENTION TIPS**

- *Once you get your Christmas goodies, follow these precautions, Chief says*

Detroit Police are reminding citizens to use good common sense during the days after Christmas to avoid being the victim of a home invasion, Chief Warren Evans said today.

*“This time of year, most everyone will have a lot of new and expensive merchandise in their homes,”* Chief Evans said. *“There are some simple rules people can follow to keep them from becoming a target.”*

- **Don’t advertise on trash day.** Would be thieves like to cruise through neighborhoods in the days immediately after Christmas to see what kinds of items are left out at the curb. Many people will inadvertently advertise what new items they have inside their house by leaving large boxes visible in their trash.

“If you got a new flat screen TV and a new computer system, don’t throw out the boxes without breaking them down so they will fit completely inside your trash can,” Chief Evans said. “If you have to spread out getting rid of those large boxes over the course of a couple of weeks, keep them inside your house or garage for the time being.”

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- **Don't brag about your new toys.** The people who commit home invasions can be closer than you think. Be careful about who you brag to about your new video game system or other expensive toys. A lot of home invasions are committed by people who know exactly what the victims have inside their home because they have first-hand knowledge. This rule applies not only to who you talk to directly, but what you post on social networking websites like Facebook.
- **Look before you leave.** Crooks often "case" their victims to pick up on their patterns. If they discover that you leave at a certain time each day, they will know when to strike. Before you leave, take a good look up and down the street to see if you see any unrecognizable people walking in the area or sitting in cars. Also, try to budget a little extra time so you can ride around the block and come back by your house a few minutes later, just to make sure no one has approached your house as soon as you left.
- **Out of sight, out of mind.** Whether it's in your home or car, don't leave gifts in plain view to casual observers who can look in your windows. It's a temptation that a lot of people won't be able to resist.
- **Keep an eye out.** A burglar's worst enemy is a nosy neighbor. Keep an eye out on your neighbors' homes and ask them to keep an eye on yours. Better yet, become an active neighborhood patroller. If you are interested in starting a neighborhood patrol, contact your district or precinct's community relations officer.

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*For additional information, please contact the Office of Public Information at 313-596-2200.*