

EYES and EARS NOTIFICATION - RELEASE

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KENNETH V. COCKREL, JR.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION2ND DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES TATE**CHIEF OF POLICE**

JAMES R. BARREN, PH.D.

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POLICE IMPERSONATOR DECEIVES VICTIM PHONY CRIME INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ROBBERY

DETROIT – The Detroit Police Department is seeking information on an individual who recently violated the trust of a resident by posing as a police officer and robbing her at gunpoint inside of her home. On *December 30, 2008 at about 1:30 p.m.*, a 41-year-old female resident of a home located in the 13500 block of Birwood responded to a knock on her front door by the fake officer. The imposter told the woman that he was police officer and that he and his partner had arrested a man who they spotted trying to steal her vehicle. The imposter further stated that he needed the woman to look at some pictures of the alleged car thief which he claimed were in a manila envelope he was holding. Convinced that the man on the other side of the door was there to help, the unsuspecting resident opened the door and allowed the imposter in. Once inside, the perpetrator produced a handgun, pointed it at the woman, and demanded money. The woman complied and provided him with an undisclosed amount of cash before the perpetrator rushed away from the location. The victim did not see in which direction the perpetrator fled or whether he actually had a partner. No other individual was seen and there is no indication that the woman's car had ever been tampered with.

The impostor is described as a black male in his 30's, approx 6'1 and 230-240 lbs. with a muscular build, dark complexion, and a black and grey mustache. He had what appeared to be a police badge on a chain hanging around his neck and was wearing all black clothing at the time of the crime.

(((more)))



This is only one example of the trickery that criminals may use to try to gain entry into your home to commit dangerous and illegal acts.

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD DO IF THEY ARE AT HOME ALONE AND AN UNKNOWN PERSON COMES TO THEIR DOOR CLAIMING TO BE A POLICE OFFICER:

- DO NOT IMMEDIATELY OPEN THE DOOR
 - First... ask to see photo ID (without opening door), ask them where they work, and get their badge number.
 - Then call the nearest District and confirm their identity.

Detroit Police Department District Phone Numbers:

- Northwest District 313-596-5600
- Southwest District 313-596-5300
- Western District 313-596-1200
- Eastern District 313-596-5900
- Northeast District 313-596-1100
- Central District 313-596-1300

OR

- Call a neighbor. If they are in a position to do so, have them look out from their house and ID the persons as well as any vehicle they may be driving. (Police will almost always be in a vehicle)
- Then Call 9-1-1 and give a complete description of the individuals as well as any vehicle they may be driving.

Being active in monthly Detroit Police Department community relations meetings and joining a neighborhood association provides citizens with valuable information that regularly keeps residents aware of crime trends within the community.

Anyone with information concerning the above police impersonation and robbery is asked to contact the Detroit Police Southwest Investigation Firearm Team (SWIFT) at 596-5345 or Crime Stoppers (anonymously) at 1-800-SPEAK-UP.

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