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**COUNCILPERSON, THIRD DISTRICT**



**COUNCIL**  
**SECURITY TIPS**

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Over the past several months, there has been a growing concern among the residents of the 3rd Council District related to local residential burglaries. The intent of this handout is to help you assess the security of your home, give you tips for your personal safety and share contact information that may be helpful. As always, if you feel threatened in any way, your first action should be to call 911.

**GENERAL TIPS:**

- Immediately report all suspicious or threatening activity to the police. Call 911.
- If you wonder whether you should call 911, you should! Follow your gut instinct.
- Take down the license plate number of any suspicious vehicles and call 911 or the nonemergency number, 573-2800. Do not confront any suspicious person, placing yourself in danger
- Get to know, and communicate with, your neighbors.
- Consider installing surveillance cameras at the entrances of your community. License plate numbers obtained from video surveillance are crucial in crime solving.
- Reverse 911 calls are used to notify neighborhoods in a variety of situations. IF YOU HAVE AN UNLISTED PHONE NUMBER you will need to register your phone number with the police by notifying your Community Service officer (assignment information is listed on the back of this sheet) or by calling the non-emergency number at 573-2800.

**AT YOUR HOME:**

- Consider installing outside flood lights, motion detectors, a security system, video cameras and/or a surveillance system. Activate it when you are at or away from home.
- Know the background of people who you allow into your home on a contractual basis.
- Dogs, of all sizes, are great deterrents, especially if they are barkers.
- Take photos and/or video the rooms in your house, focusing on your electronics and jewelry. Record available serial numbers and itemize your valuables

**WHEN YOU ARE HOME:**

- Lock your doors.
- If you park outside, lock the car and don't leave a garage door opener or valuables in the car.
- Don't leave anything of value in your house where it is visible through a window.
- Keep your car key on your nightstand or in your pocket; if you hear something odd, set off your car alarm.

## **WHEN YOU ARE AWAY:**

- Lock your doors
- Make your house look and sound as it does when you are home. Put lights on timers in order that the routine light movement, when you are away, simulates what happens when you are home. Put a timer on a radio so that there is noise in the house when you are not there.
- Suggest that a neighbor use your driveway, so that there is continued activity around your house.
- Do not let mail or newspapers pile up outside your home. Ask a neighbor or family member to take in your mail or newspaper when you are away. You do not know who has access to your information if you have your mail held or your newspaper stopped.
- Do not use any social media that sends the message that you are away. Post after the fact.
- When you return home, survey your property. Do not enter a home if you suspect it has been broken into.

## **PERSONAL ATTENTIVENESS**

- Walk as if you have a purpose. Stay alert.
- Have your keys in your hand as you walk to your car. If you feel threatened, hit the alarm button.
- Don't be distracted by talking on your cell phone as you are walking through a parking lot.
- Take note of any cars that seem to be following you.
- Do not drive into your driveway or garage until you to see if anyone is behind you.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT ASSIGNMENTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- Cpl. Karen Crowley, (302) 395-2781, [KCrowley@nccde.org](mailto:KCrowley@nccde.org). Coverage area includes communities East of Limestone Road, West of Red Clay Creek
- Cpl. Perry Sorrels, (302) 395-8201, [PSorrels@nccde.org](mailto:PSorrels@nccde.org). Coverage area includes communities West of Limestone Road
- Sgt. Wesley Reynolds, Commander, Community Services Unit, (302) 395-8172, [WReynolds@nccde.org](mailto:WReynolds@nccde.org)

## **INFORMATION TO REMEMBER WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE**

- To report incidents:
  - All emergencies: 911
  - New Castle County Police non-emergency number: 302-573-2800
  - Submit a tip online at <http://www2.nccde.org/police/crimetips>
  - Send an ANONYMOUS Text Message to TIP411. Begin your text with NCCPD and then type your message.
- The Community Services Unit (395-8050) provides programs free of charge to any Civic, Church or community group in NCC. Check the NCCPD website for programs of interest. Examples are:
  - Block Watch – telephone networking for a flow of information between community and police.
  - Personal Safety Program – promotes safety in home, vehicle, retail stores, on the street
  - Child Watch Program – for all ages & parents – establishes “safe houses” and provides instruction.
  - Home Security Program – techniques and devices to better reduce accessibility and improve security.
  - Senior Citizen Safety – home security information, insight into scams, ideas on increasing protection from street crime....AND MORE.