



WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE

The Winter Park Police Department wants to remind you to immediately contact the police when you witness strange or suspicious activity. If you see someone or a situation that raises your concern, even slightly, then you should call us via 9-1-1. Do not wait or call a friend to get advice. The quicker you call the quicker we



can respond to investigate the situation. We often receive calls from citizens who wait from 5 to 45 minute or longer after they witness a crime or suspicious activity. A delay in calling can make the difference between a suspect being apprehended or getting away to commit other crimes. While we respond to anonymous calls for service, it is always better if we have a complainants name and telephone number, especially in cases that involve an arrest. Likewise, if there is no victim, there is no crime. If you do not press charges, even in the case of a juvenile suspect, there is little we

can do and will in most cases have to let them go. They will then be free to commit other crimes in your neighborhood, often more serious. If residents do not take the time to get involved in their neighborhoods it makes it difficult for the police to adequately do their job, which is to protect you.

This is your community, neighborhood and your home. Do not let anyone take it away from you. Call the police department immediately to report suspicious activity.

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TASERS

Beginning in July Winter Park officers began carrying TASER devices. The TASER provides a safer option to law enforcement officers when we must use force on a person. TASER

technology saves lives everyday and numerous independent medical studies conclude that TASER Electronic Control Devices (ECDs) are the among the safest and most effective use-of-

force options available. The TASER dramatically reduces injury rates to suspects and officers, thereby lowering liability risk and improving officer safety and community security. TASER devices use proprietary technology to quickly

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Special Points

Of Interest

The next time you talk to a friend mention this publication. If a friend of yours does not get this newsletter, they are not in an active Neighborhood Watch area. We can change that. Neighborhood Watch is free, easy and is at the root of community involvement.

Bring back the days of yesteryear when everyone looked out for one another and you were your brother's keeper.



When To Call The Police, continued

The overwhelming majority of residential crimes that are committed in Winter Park are auto burglaries and home burglaries. About 80% of these were due to negligence. A door or window was left open or unlocked. Many times people leave their garage door up at night and a thief goes inside and steals whatever he wants.

Winter Park has experienced a spike in auto burglaries in the past few months. They have occurred throughout the city. In almost every case the vehicle was unlocked. These burglars are simply going down the street at night

and lifting door handles or reaching inside open windows to steal things. During three of these crime spree, neighbors saw the suspect but did not call the police, even after they saw him inside their own car. Is that the kind of neighbor you want? Is that the type of neighborhood you want to raise a family in? The program name says it all: Neighborhood Watch. It's your job to watch the neighborhood. The police can't do it alone. What type of neighborhood do you want to live in?

WARNING

Neighborhood Watch Area

TASERS, CONT'D



Ofc. Jim Whitman takes a "hit" from the TASER during training.

incapacitate dangerous, combative or high-risk subjects who pose a risk to law enforcement officers, innocent citizens or themselves. The TASER system doesn't use pain compliance but immediately stops any coordinated action by the subject only while the TASER system's current is flowing. Recovery from the effects of the TASER are instantaneous.

Many people ask if the TA-

SER is safe. TASER technology is not risk free, but independent medical and scientific experts have determined that when used properly, TASER technology is among the most effective use of force interventions available to law enforcement. No other law enforcement tool has undergone as extensive international scientific testing and scrutiny as TASER technology. A study by the Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology (PACE) suggest a safety margin of greater than 20:1 for adults. To put this into perspective Acetaminophen has an 8:1 safety margin. TASER International has taken it upon itself to implement numerous measures to ensure that its electronic control devices are among the safest and most accountable, use-of-force alternatives in the world. These accountability measures include an on-board computer that records data each time the trigger is pulled. In addition, each TASER cartridge is serialized and registered to its user and includes a tracking program that disperses dozens of confetti-sized film at the scene under our Anti-Felon Identification (AFID) program. This is another built-in mode of accountability.

The Police Department believes that the use of this tool will be beneficial to the officers and citizens whom we are sworn to protect, without increasing the danger to people on whom the TASER is used.



SCHOOLS IN

In just a few weeks school will be back in session. With the start of the school year everyone should allow additional time in their daily commutes if you drive by a school. This includes not only parents, but everyone in the community. School zones have an impact on traffic flow for commuters through the city and these zones are strictly enforced by the police department. Young students traveling to and from school on bicycle or foot will require additional attention to avoid accidents.

We would like to share a few simple reminders to assist you in keeping your child safe and out of harms way.

1. Children should never accept a ride or get into a car of anyone they do not know. Many children think a stranger is someone who looks like a monster. Remind them that strangers look like everyone else. There is no way to tell good strangers from bad ones. Therefore assume all strangers are bad. If your child is to be picked up by someone other than a family member invent a code word. If the person picking them up does not know the code your child should be instructed not to go with that individual.

2. Make a map of the route your child takes when he/she leaves for school and returns home. Instruct them to stick to the route. If they do not arrive in a timely manner you have a map of where to start searching.

3. Have a list of your child's friends and their telephone numbers and addresses. Occasionally a child will go home with a friend and fail to tell anyone.

4. If your son or daughter is "latch key" child make sure they keep their house key in a safe place and do not give it to anyone. They should also call you as soon as they get home from school. Additionally, make sure your child understands how to dial 9-1-1 should they need help to summon medical or police assistance.

5. As adults we should be mindful of children in our community; whether they are yours or not, children need to be protected from certain elements of society. Children often cannot make good decisions depending on the circumstances they are faced with. They have also been taught to obey adults. Criminals who attempt to hurt or otherwise victimize children often use this to their advantage.

6. Children and traffic do not mix well. Children riding bicycles or walking should use sidewalks whenever possible. As we all know, children do not always look both ways before crossing streets or darting into traffic lanes. While most crashes are the fault of the child, many could be avoided by motorist being more aware of their surroundings and driving defensively.

7. If your child rides a bicycle to school ensure they wear a properly fitting, approved safety helmet. It's the law!!!!

8. The fines for speeding in a school zone are double the standard speeding fine so please drive carefully. The Winter Park Police Department strictly enforces speed limits in school zones.

CRIME BRIEFS

Burglaries in your neighborhood are on the rise.

Here is a small sampling of what crimes are being committed and how many are preventable in Winter Park since May:

Auto Burglary

Reported: 45

UNLOCKED: 39

Residential Burglary

Reported: 34

UNLOCKED: 13

Stolen Vehicles

Reported: 7

UNLOCKED/Keys

in Vehicle: 4

If everyone simply locked their vehicles and homes a large number of people would not experience crime. Winter Park is part of a large Central Florida community. Unfortunately crime does not stop at our city limits. It just takes a minute to lock your car or your house (and set the alarm if you have one). It also just takes a minute to take your car keys out of your console or ignition. These crimes are city wide in every neighborhood. You are the main reason Neighborhood Watch is a success or failure in your neighborhood. What kind of neighborhood do you have?

Check our website for more info and stats. www.wppd.org

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“We're always there when you need us”

Community Policing

Services & Programs

C.A.T. Program: Enroll your vehicle in this free anti-theft program. This program allows police to stop a vehicle with a C.A.T. sticker on it if the vehicle is being driven between 1:00 am and 5:00 am, the time when most car thefts happen.

Business Watch: Business owners are offered anti-theft ideas, information regarding fraud, workplace violence & robbery issues, and become aware of current criminal trends.

House Check Program: If you are out of town more than a few days the Police Department will stop by your home (work load permitting) and check the exterior of it to ensure it is secure. If any problems are found, your emergency contact will be notified. This service is free. Contact the Police Communications Center at (407) 644-1313.

Ride-Along Program: Ride with an officer on a tour of duty. Riders must be at least 18 yrs. old and of good moral character. Contact Officer McDaniel @ (407) 599-3455. Riding is at the discretion of the Police Department.

Security Assessments: Officers of the Community Policing Unit will be glad to meet you at your home to offer advice for crime-proofing your home. Just call Officer McDaniel at 407-599-3455 to set it up.

We're on the web!

www.wppd.org

Find out what crime is doing in your area. Log onto the web for residential crime statistics

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

Please help us welcome Officer Hector Bonilla who was sworn into the ranks of the Winter Park Police Department on April 23, 2007. Officer Bonilla came to us from Southeastern Freight Lines where he was a Dock Supervisor. He has served with the United States Army where he was deployed to Iraq for four months and remains in the Army Reserves. Hector stated he wanted to work in Winter Park because of the family atmosphere that

Chief Ball promotes. The agency and community are very family oriented and that placed Winter Park ahead of other agencies.

Although still in training, Officer Bonilla, is interested in pursuing a position in the Investigations Division and the position of SWAT sniper as his career with Winter Park continues.

Hector is originally from New York but lives in Orlando now with his wife and his two sons.

In his spare time, Hector enjoys working out, spending time with his family, baseball and martial arts.

