
August 15, 2018 Crime Prevention Meeting Summary

Representatives from the NBPD who attended our meeting were:

- Patrol Sergeant Steve Burdette
- Executive Officer Lieutenant Tom Fischbacher
- Detective Brian Schlottach
- Safety Officer & Crime Prevention Specialist Sara Verschueren

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & email:

- Area 4 Lt. Keith Krallman kkallman@nbpd.org
- Non-emergency Police Dispatch 949-644-3717
- 24-hour Recorded Crime Tip Hotline 800-550-6273
- Traffic 949-644-3742
- Graffiti Hotline 949-644-3333
- Code Enforcement 949-644-3215
- Free Home Security Inspection 949-644-3699
- NIXLE: Receive Crime alerts, traffic advisories, community updates from NBPD via text messaging, email or on the web by signing up at www.nixle.com

Meeting Summary:



Sara Verschueren gave presentation on recent crime statistics and prevention techniques/tips.

All representatives participated in the Q&A session at the end.

Details follow.

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CdM is Area 4 & map depicted where burglaries occurred. They are spread out across Area 4 without a trend or pattern.

- Overall crime is down 4% & property crime is down 15% from 2017 YTD.
- There 6 more burglaries YTD over 2017. Arrests are up 90% from 2017.
- Common Entry Points for home robberies are unsecured windows or doors, shattered windows or doors & pried open windows and doors.
- Be aware of suspicious vehicles with faded paper license plates taped over authentic license plates
- Main target for theft is the master bedroom where jewelry & money are kept
 - Consider moving safe to first floor and bolting to foundation

Top Four Basic Home Security tips for the interior of the home are:

1. always lock your doors & windows even if only leaving home for a few minutes. Burglars are watching for patterns.
2. install smart cameras on exterior & interior of your home
3. use timers to turn lights on and off, making it appear someone is always at home
4. Use TV simulators which have the appearance of TV on

Tips for Outside the home:

- keep exterior lights on to illuminate front & back yards
- use landscaping as deterrent, keeping bushes trimmed and below windows so burglars can't hide
- add motion sensor lights & photo cell adaptors
- use timers & smart phone technology

Door Security:

- Install single cylinder dead bolts on French Doors, safety glass film on window panes & double keyed locks, keeping the key nearby but not reachable for a thief
- Use 3" screws to secure strike plates; deadbolts should be 1" throw
- Add motion detectors so alarm sounds as interior is breached

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Second story burglaries:

- Open windows on second stories are an opportunity for burglars to enter; windows should be locked & secured
- Ladders should be stored inside the garage or locked to a stationary object
- Access could be from a tree, balcony, roof, wall or patio furniture stacked together for height

Home Security is about layers of protection, don't rely on 1 or 2 methods as deterrents:

- Neighborhood Watch; get to know your neighbors
- Call Police Dispatch at 949-644-3717 for non-emergencies on all suspicious activity.

Vehicle Crime:

- Lock and secure all doors & windows, even if you are away from your car for only a few minutes
- Lock and remove valuables even when you park your vehicle *inside* your garage
- Treat your garage door opener as if it were a key to your home; remove it from your vehicle when not parking in your garage.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit area and if your vehicle has an alarm, activate it.
- Statistically, 70% of vehicles are left unlocked!

Summary from Questions & Answers section:

- Police on bikes to patrol CdM is a possibility.
- The City has a Homeless liaison Officer dedicated to the homeless problem who ID's people in need, veterans, etc. and has resources to help these individuals. Please call if observe tent shelters or any trouble.
- Frequent thefts occur during dinnertime, when people are at work & at night, of course. Thieves watch for patterns, resident's coming & going. Recently 2 suspects were arrested who had downloaded construction site information from the internet & also reviewed floor plans while touring Open Houses and online property for sale listings.
- A resident & Hoag Hospital employee commented 63 people have died of drug overdose recently at Hoag & has observed homeless sleeping on benches around the hospital & trying to gain entry. Police cannot interfere with homeless attempting to seek medical assistance.
- Many years ago, the CdM Civic Association got funding for installing decorative street lights, but residents objected. We should address adding street lights for safety, so speak to your Councilman & let your voice be heard.

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- Police recommend security camera surveillance at the home's power source in case power is cut by burglars. Even though burglars usually cover up & disguise themselves, their point of entry, exit route, etc. is helpful to Police to see if they dropped something, left any evidence behind.
- We don't have a "gang problem" and are very secure.
- Any resident can apply for the 12-week Citizen's Police Academy training course which meets Wednesday evenings. Participants experience different aspects of the PD such as the canine unit, SWAT Team, dispatch, the firing range, etc. to gain a thorough understanding of the Police Department.
- Always remove valuables prior to termite tenting and phone dispatch if something looks suspicious.
- Of the 8 homes that were burglarized in July most were not occupied & 4 out of the 8 suspects have been arrested. Safes were hit, rear windows were the point of entry, perpetrators grabbed the safe & ran out all within 1 minute. Police suggest BOLTING our safes to concrete on the first floor of the home.
- If helicopter activity, sirens, or other questionable activity is of concern, go to the PD website for information and be sure to sign up for NIXLE.COM to get text alerts directly from the Police Department at www.nixle.com.

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