

# **CRIME PREVENTION**

## **FAUBOURG ST. JOHN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

### **PERSONAL SECURITY**

1. Use intuition.
2. If you are in danger or being attacked and want to get help, yell "Call 911!" , "fire", or give specific directions to onlookers; for example: "You! Get the police!" or "Walk me to the store on the corner, I'm being followed."
3. Have your keys ready when approaching your car or building.
4. Vary your routine: drive or walk different routes every day. If you suspect that someone is following you, by foot or in a car, don't go home (or they will know where you live). Go to a trusted neighbor or to a public place to call police, or go directly to the police station or DPS office.
5. Do not label keys with your name or any identification.
6. Don't talk about your social life or vacation plans where strangers can overhear you.
7. Always carry enough change for a telephone call.
8. Take a self-defense course.

### **ON THE STREET:**

1. Look confident and be aware of the environment around you. Walk briskly and with someone, especially after dark. Avoid isolated areas, cutting through parks, vacant lots, and deserted areas.
2. Face traffic and stay visible. Avoid isolated areas and cutting through parks, vacant lots and deserted areas
3. When walking, face the oncoming traffic and stay visible. It will be harder for someone to pull you into a car and abduct you. You can also see cars coming in your lane.
4. Tell someone where you'll be and what time you're supposed to return, or if you will be with someone you don't know well.
5. Don't overload yourself with packages. If you must have your hands full, visualize how you would respond if approached, how you would get your hands free, etc.
6. Don't wear music headphones while walking or jogging.
7. Don't read while walking or standing on the street.
8. If you wear a purse with a shoulder strap, be prepared to let it go if snatched. Otherwise you may be hurt if the mugger knocks you down and drags you while fleeing with your purse.
9. If someone asks you for directions, and if you choose to reply, remain at least two arms lengths away.
10. Clogs, high heels, and tight skirts are hard to run and fight in. Capes, scarves, neckties and long necklaces are easy to grab. Modify your fashion style, or wear comfortable clothing when walking alone (change into dress clothes later), or think of how you would fight in your dress-up clothes (for example, kicking off your high heels or hiking up your skirt around your hips before starting to run or kick).

11. Avoid being on the street alone if you are upset or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
12. When dropping someone off at their home, make sure they are safely inside before driving away. Have them do the same for you.
13. If possible, walk with a friend at night.
14. Take elevators instead of stairs.
15. Be very careful using outside ATMs at night or in unfamiliar surroundings.

### **SHOPPING:**

1. Use traveler's checks or credit cards instead of cash whenever possible. Carry the fewest items possible to reduce your burden and thief's targets.
2. Keep your wallet or purse under your direct control at all times.
3. When using bathrooms, don't put valuables on the floor.
4. When at restaurants or other public places don't hang your purse on the back of a chair.
5. Particularly when traveling out of town, keep a major credit card and a picture ID separate from your wallet or purse. If you should lose your wallet or purse you will not be stranded.

### **ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:**

1. Beware of overheard conversations. Don't tell anyone on the bus or a subway where you are going.
2. Stay awake and alert.
3. Have exact change ready.
4. Try to sit near the driver.
5. If you sense someone is following you when you get off, walk toward a populated area. Don't walk directly home.

### **IN A CAR:**

1. Check the inside and around your car before entering to insure that no one is hiding there.
2. Check your surroundings before getting out of your car. See if anyone is sitting in nearby cars.
3. Don't pick up hitchhikers.
4. Keep doors locked and window rolled up so that someone can't reach in with their hand.
5. If a group of suspicious people approaches you when you are stopped at a red light at a deserted intersection, run the light if your intuition tells you that the situation could get dangerous.
6. Don't let the gas indicator fall below  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a tank.
7. Plan your route and check a map before you start out.
8. Park in a well-lighted heavily traveled area if possible. Try not to park next to a van, as you can be pulled in through the sliding door. If safety is a question, use an attended parking lot.
9. If possible, stay out of high crime areas, especially after dark.

10. Don't leave valuables in plain sight inside your car. · Give only the ignition key to a parking attendant.
11. If you see an accident or stranded motorist, report it from the nearest telephone instead of stopping.
12. Carry in your car: flashlight, flares, fix-a-flat, maps, comfortable warm clothing, first aid kit, empty gas can, white cloth to tie to antenna to signal distress, cellular phone.
13. Learn basic auto maintenance and/or join a emergency car repair service; if you have a problem with your car, telephone for help, put out flares, but ask any "official" who comes to help you for identification before getting out of the car.
14. Don't sit in your car doing work.
15. If coming home at night, possibly call a nearby family member or neighbor to let them know when you will be arriving.
16. When approaching your car to enter it, have the key in your hand, and check the handles, locks and back seat before entering.
17. If there is someone loitering near your unoccupied car as you approach it, keep walking until they leave. Don't leave any personal identification documents, keys or credit cards anywhere in the vehicle.
18. Whether you leave your car for a minute or for several hours, roll up the windows, lock it, and take the key.
19. If you park in a commercial lot, leave only the ignition key, and make certain that no identifying information is attached.
20. Purchase stereo components, CB's or cellular phones that can be removed from their brackets and placed in a more secure location upon parking.
21. Be suspicious of people approaching your car asking for directions or change, or giving out flyers.
22. When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your car and the one in front of you, so you can pull away quickly if necessary.
23. If a suspicious looking person approaches your car, drive away carefully - even if you must go through a traffic light.
24. If you're driving home, and there's somebody walking down the street that you don't recognize, drive around the block and come back after that person has left.
25. If another driver bumps your car, or your tire goes flat, keep your doors and windows closed and wait for the Police to arrive - or drive slowly to the nearest Police station.
26. Be alert when using drive-up automated teller machines (ATM).
27. If you have a cellular phone, call for help.
28. If you are confronted, don't resist.
29. Car theft prevention devices, alarms, kill switches, steering wheel locks, collars (devices that prevent the steering column from being stripped), etching with VIN (vehicle identification), anti-theft system

## **WALKING:**

1. Avoid wearing valuable, loose fitting jewelry.
2. Don't entertain strangers who may try to stop you to ask you questions. Keep walking and ignore the person. If you need information or become lost do not

talk to anyone on the street. Locate a business such as a hotel or restaurant and ask an employee for assistance.. Beware of some isolated local scam artists that try to con you out of money. Be alert for distractions that may be staged by pickpocket teams.

3. Keep a major credit card and a picture ID separate from your wallet or purse.
4. Should you be placed in a threatening situation call 911 from any phone and report the incident. If you cannot call yourself go to the nearest business place and ask an employee to call the police.

### **TRAVEL:**

1. At your hotel, don't enter your room if your door is open. Instead, call security. Don't answer the door in your hotel or motel room without verifying who it is. If someone claims to be a hotel employee, call the front desk to verify.
2. Report any suspicious movement in the corridors or rooms to hotel management.
3. Do not leave money, jewelry, or valuables in your room, not even for a short time. Check with the management for a safe deposit box.
4. Be extremely careful in inviting new friends or acquaintances to your hotel room.

### **IN CASE OF ATTACK (some suggestions):**

1. The elbow is the strongest point on your body .If you are close enough to use it, do.
2. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving.
3. If someone is in the car with a gun to your head and demands that you drive off Instead gun the engine and speed into anything wrecking the car. As soon as the car crashes, run.
4. If robber demands you pocketbook, you can give it to him, or, if possibly, just empty the contents onto the ground and run.

### **IN YOUR HOME:**

1. LIGHTS: Have lights in all entrances, driveways, front yards, garage doors: residence numbers lit; illuminate or eliminate places an intruder might hide: the spaces between trees or shrubbery, stairwells, alleys, hallways, and entryways; residences to be lit at night, use of solar lights, motion detectors; lights on timers inside
2. LOCKS: deadbolt locks, strong hinges, strong enough not to be able to be forced open; gates, garage doors, and shed doors locked after every use.
3. DOORS: front entrance be observed from street, well lit, wide angle viewer or voice intercommunications device is no windows in door, WINDOWS: adequate locks, secure even if upper windows near roofs, porches, etc.
4. Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor or nearby shopkeeper, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.; timers set on lights when you're away from home or your business is closed so it appears to be occupied Have good locks on all doors and windows.

5. Do not use your full name on your mailbox, answering machine or in the phone directory.
6. Do not leave a schedule of your times away from home on your answering machine or on your door.
7. If you live alone, do not let strangers know. Invent a roommate or big dog.
8. Know which neighbors you can trust in an emergency.
9. Check who is at the door before opening it, and do not open the door to an unexpected visitor.
10. Don't hide extra keys in easily accessible places. Criminals will find them.
11. Ask for photo identification of all repair persons, etc. If you are still suspicious, call to verify employment.
12. Never give personal information to telephone solicitors.
13. Consider creating a "safe room" with a separate telephone line or cellular phone, and strong locks. If someone breaks in, you can retreat there (with children) and call for help.
14. Do not let strangers into your home to use the phone. Offer to make the call for them.

### **COMMUNITY LIGHTING/SECURITY:**

1. Street lights working spaced properly without being blocked
2. Street names plainly marked
3. House numbers visible from street
4. Residence appears occupied
5. Operation ID stickers/identification of valuables with serial numbers recorded and photos taken of other valuables
6. Garage doors closed
7. Shrubs below window level
8. No valuables left in yard or vehicle, no ladder outside.
9. Contact information (cell, home, and/or work phone numbers, e-mail addresses) of neighbors

### **SUSPICIOUS CRIME REPORTING ACTIVITIES:**

#### **REPORT TO POLICE:**

1. Individual looking in windows, trying to force open doors, carrying weapon.
2. Solicitors asking unusual questions.
3. Unusual noises.
4. Telephone callers asking for credit card or bank account numbers.
5. Individual carrying property out of residence/business at unusual times.
6. Car driving past area repeatedly or parking without exiting car.
7. Person running from residence/building;

#### **POSSIBLE DRUG ACTIVITIES:**

1. Unusual odors coming from residence.
  2. Vacant or occupied house with unusually high amount of traffic, especially late at night.
  3. Double-parked cars in front of house.
  4. People displaying large sums of cash or carrying valuables into house.
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