



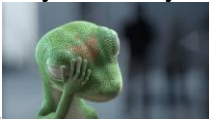
Response to community questions about reporting and prevention

Tips and Tricks for Personal Safety

A Note from Major Hawkins Bureau of Community Policing Commander, Brentwood Police

I apologize for the delay between newsletters – the holiday season certainly is crazy! We hope everyone is doing well, staying safe, and staying healthy! I would like to share a personal story. Picture it: 3:30 am, I receive a call from my mother. The conversation goes a little something like this...

Me: Are you ok? What’s wrong?
Mom: Yes you goofball, why do you think something’s wrong?
Me: It’s 3:30 in the morning...
Mom: It’s fine. But listen, someone just knocked on our back door.
Me: Just now? Did you see them? Did you call the police?
Mom: Yes honey, I called you.



Me:

The conversation progressed and we discussed how calling the police means calling 911 when something alarming and extremely suspicious happens in the middle of the night.

My mother was concerned about the same thing many people are concerned with when deciding whether or not to call the police. She didn’t want to bother us over nothing. While that is extremely thoughtful, we are here to serve our communities twenty-four hours a day. In fact, many night watch officers might enjoy a call for service in the middle of the night.

Prior to the winter COVID spread, when our detectives were out in the neighborhoods meeting residents, many

people said they had seen people going through cars, looking into cars, or had seen other suspicious behavior but did not call 911. They didn’t want to bother us, or the subjects were gone quickly and police would likely not catch them. We encouraged people to call 911 anytime they see such behavior, no matter what.

We have far fewer chances to catch criminals when we are not made aware of crimes in progress.

While we are out and about on patrols, we still rely on the community to let us know when something suspicious is afoot. In summary, please call any time for anything you think is suspicious.



While visiting with the community we often faced the question, “What can we do to be more proactive against crime in our neighborhood?” Some basic answers to that question are: Stay aware and report

suspicious activity; lock your car doors, keep valuables out of sight; turn on outdoor lights after dark to minimize darkness (and of course to improve curb appeal). There are a ton of resources on the web for crime prevention tips, and we are a great resource too – contact us!

Just a brief plug – the pillow drive for Home Sweet Home is still going on (until December 31) and both the Fire Department and Police Department are collecting new pillows for the local non-profit. Please visit us and donate!

We hope everyone is able to enjoy the holiday season, despite restrictions and health concerns. From your Brentwood Police – Happy Holidays, stay safe. ☆