

(Notes from **Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Crime Strategy meeting**, Oct. 24, 2018)

DID YOU KNOW...

Colorado Springs "**Stetson Hills Division**" is the sixth largest City in Colorado by itself. Colorado Springs in whole is the 39th largest City in the US?

Our population is 183,000 out of 500,000 total with only 70 Law enforcement officers to patrol almost 62 square miles **just in the Stetson Hills Division alone**. 195 square miles in the entire city, with just under 700 officers' total!!!!

Denver PD only covers 155 square miles and has approximately 1700 Officers!!!!

NOW... THINK ABOUT THIS!

The **BIGGEST PROBLEM** our police are seeing is an increase in-- **PROPERTY CRIMES** approximately 80 percent of them could be prevented simply by locking your vehicle, taking the garage door out of your vehicle and keeping your garage door closed.

Many of you will remember a few months ago, neighbors were experiencing Car and Home Break-ins which were due to two groups of very organized adults and youths.

Here's how they did it!

- As they casually walk by homes, they tested car doors to see if unlocked.
- If they triggered a Flood/Motion sensor light, they would come back and unscrew the bulbs
- If they notice your Garage Door open while you were in the house or out in the back OR maybe in bed- due to forgetting to close it.
- AND... another trick is using Fishing wire to trigger your door sensor to get the door to go back up and you never suspect a thing as you assume it will close!

They are prepared and Organized!!!

- Once they get into your garage, they go right for your vehicle!
 - Taking the Remote, your personal possessions and even your Identity!
- Once they have your Remote---They have access to your Home—IF you leave your Interior door unlocked, then you become a victim of Burglary and Theft.

HOW DO WE TAKE AWAY THIS ENVIORMENT we have created????

Let's get more AWARE and PRO-ACTIVE!!!

- Make sure your Garage Door closes completely before you
 - . Drive away
 - . Enter your Home and close the door behind you

- Lock your Vehicles if you leave them in the driveway or on the street
 - . Make it a point to **DOUBLE CHECK** to see if they are locked. Go back without your key fob (if one) so it doesn't unlock when you touch the door handle.
- Set an alarm on your phone or other device to remind you to check doors to vehicles/home

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- Outside Lights on!

Per Officer MJ Thomson, Crime Prevention Officer:

When proper and effective lighting is used in combination with trimming of trees and bushes, the right type of fencing and shrubbery, most homes likelihood of being broken into diminish greatly.

- Various Doorbells with Video capability such as RING.com

- Outside Cameras- best ones use "Cell Primary" which means it uses real time when recording if motion is detected.

INTERESTING FACTS

Due to the combined efforts of a neighbor posting his (Ring doorbell) video on Nextdoor.com, the information was copied and sent to the police with a result of 30 criminals caught and prosecuted-now serving 19 years in jail! These crimes occurred during July, August and September of this year.

Police saw a 65% decrease in burglaries after this!

"Trends" are happening in many states- enacting the **SAFE STORAGE LAWS FOR WEAPONS**. Unfortunately, Colorado is not one YET! However, it is coming!

What this will mean if your gun(s) are stolen from your home or vehicle:

- If you are a gun owner—YOU are RESPONSIBLE for the SAFE STORAGE of your guns!

Whether they are in your home or in your vehicle:

IF THEY ARE STOLEN, you will be facing a \$500.00 fine for not having them locked and safely stored.

AND IF THEY ARE USED IN A CRIME, you could be looking at a Year in Jail AND up to a \$10,000.00 fine!!!

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS

Commander Edmondson asked the group for ideas on how the Police and Neighborhood Watch groups could communicate better with one another as well as the general public? These were some of the ideas YOU BLOCK CAPTAINS CAME UP WITH:

-Emailing friends and family who might not be involved with Neighborhood watch to keep them informed

- Bait cars (Ruse) operations to catch criminals
- “Cops everyday.com” topics to share on social media. (On top of the Facebook Live Crime Prevention Thursday Topics already being produced)
- News sources such as TV, Radio broadcasts, Internet (on top of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Nextdoor) that CSPD already utilizes
- Teach people not to be **COMPLACENT** with home and vehicle security
- Bring back the “Scared Straight” type program(s)
- Using local businesses to also promote Crime Prevention techniques
- Texting Neighborhood Watch Members instead of email if an issue/emergency occurs
- Teaching Proper Evidence Collection/Chain of Command issues so people aren't frustrated when the police won't accept email “Evidence” from a block captain
- Finding the “Common Interests” with people wanting to help lower Property Crimes
- Using Nextdoor more effectively to encourage the public to call police to report ANY **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** even if they think the police might not respond
- Letting your neighbor(s) know if they're doing something that invites criminal activity (Call them out **RESPECTFULLY**)
- Video skits done by police to demonstrate what criminals are looking for (On top of current Crime Prevention Videos already being produced)

**ARE YOU WILLING TO INVITE CRIMINALS
INTO YOUR HOME/VEHICLES?**

Well, then do something to prevent yourself from becoming a Victim!!!