

Dear Neighbor,

Your safety is important to me. There are simple precautions you can take to protect yourself and your belongings.

This brochure contains crime prevention tips and a home security survey to help you determine just how well your home is protected.

I hope you find the information useful. If I can be of additional help to you on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to call my office.

Sincerely,



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SAFETY TIPS

for Seniors



Courtesy of
Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie

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HOME SECURITY SURVEY

Use this survey to identify potential security issues in your home.

Doors	Yes	No
Do doors have 180-degree peepholes?	☐	☐
Are locks that open from the inside at least 40 inches from the glass?	☐	☐
Are entrance doors solid and equipped with deadbolts?	☐	☐
Are outside hinge pins nonremovable?	☐	☐
Do doors securely fit door jambs?	☐	☐

Door locks	Yes	No
Is the door jamb tightly fastened?	☐	☐
Is the strike plate fastened securely?	☐	☐
Does the bolt extend far enough into the strike plate?	☐	☐
Have the locks been re-keyed since you moved in?	☐	☐

Windows	Yes	No
Have double-hung windows been pinned?	☐	☐
Do metal windows have auxiliary locks?	☐	☐
Can windows left open for ventilation be secured?	☐	☐
Do basement windows have auxiliary locks?	☐	☐
Do curtains/drapes fully cover windows?	☐	☐
Is the window air conditioner secured from the inside?	☐	☐

Garage	Yes	No
Does the door close tightly?	☐	☐
Does the overhead door have a high-quality track padlock?	☐	☐
Do you keep the overhead door closed and locked when not in use?	☐	☐
Do you remove vehicle keys when the garage is locked?	☐	☐
Can the garage light be turned on from inside the home?	☐	☐

Exterior	Yes	No
Are shrubs cut below window level and tree limbs above window level?	☐	☐
Is the residence number visible from the street?	☐	☐
Are front and back doors well lit?	☐	☐
Are bicycles, mowers and ladders kept inside?	☐	☐

Vacations	Yes	No
Do you stop deliveries?	☐	☐
Do you set light timers?	☐	☐
Do you have your yard cared for?	☐	☐
Do you notify police?	☐	☐

Extra	Yes	No
Do you belong to a neighborhood watch program?	☐	☐
Have you engraved, marked or photographed your property and put up security stickers?	☐	☐

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

When at home

- Consider having a security viewer installed.
- Never hide your keys outside. Burglars know where to look for them.
- Be sure to lock doors during the day, even if you're home or you're only leaving for a few minutes. Keep your garage door closed and locked. Put deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Never open the door before asking visitors to identify themselves. This includes repair and delivery people, as well as police officers. You have the right to refuse to open the door.
- Women who live alone should list only their last names and initials in phone directories and on mailboxes.
- Inside and outside lights give you a great deal of protection. Leave lights on at night, even when you are away from home. Change the location of lights periodically.
- If you'll be arriving home after dark, leave a light on near the door you will use. Use timers to automatically turn lights on. Have your key ready so you can open the door immediately.
- If a stranger asks to use your phone, offer to make the call instead. Never let a stranger enter your home.
- If you notice a door or window was forced open or broken while you were out, do



not enter your house. Use a cellphone or neighbor's phone immediately to call police and wait outside until they arrive.

When driving

- Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around and inside the car before getting in.
- When practical, travel on well-lit, populated streets. Keep windows closed and doors locked.
- Put your purse in the glove compartment or on the floor.
- Keep your car in gear at traffic lights and stop signs. If your safety is threatened, honk the horn and drive away as soon as possible.
- If you think you're being followed, don't pull into your driveway or park on a deserted street. Pull over to the curb where there are people, and let the car

pass you. If the car still follows you, drive to the nearest place for help – a gas station or police station – or use your cellphone to call the police.

- If you are followed into your driveway at night, stay in your car with the doors locked until you know the driver's intent. Sound the horn to get the attention of neighbors or to scare the other driver off. If someone drives you home, ask the driver to wait until you're safely inside your home before leaving.
- When parking at night, choose a place that is well-lit. Check for loiterers before leaving the car and look inside the car when returning to it.
- Never leave the car keys in the ignition, even if you only park for a short time. Lock the car and take the keys with you.

When walking

- If possible, travel with a companion, especially after dark.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- After exiting a vehicle at night, look to see whether you are being followed.
- If you see someone suspicious, cross the street. If necessary, crisscross from one side to the other. If you feel you are being followed, don't be afraid to run. If you see a house with lights on, knock on the door and ask for help.

- Maintain a secure grip on your purse. Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of the elbow, holding the purse firmly against your body. If someone tries to snatch it, let it go. It's replaceable.
- Walk in the middle of the sidewalk and avoid passing close to shrubbery, dark doorways, parked cars and other concealed places.
- Avoid shortcuts, especially through backyards, schoolyards, parking lots and alleyways.
- Only carry as much money as you need.
- Don't use an ATM on the street or behind a building.
- When using public transportation, sit close to the driver. Stay alert and don't doze.

