

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

SUFFOLK, VA (October 9, 2018) Suffolk Police would like to remind our citizens that October is designated as “National Crime Prevention Month”. Originally designated in 1984 by the National Crime Prevention Council, the month recognizes those who work tirelessly all year to prevent crime while promoting awareness of important issues such as creating safer, more caring communities.

The Suffolk Police Department’s “*Lock It...Don’t Lose It*” campaign reminds citizens that the easiest way to avoid becoming a victim of crime takes just a few seconds. In the overwhelming majority of incidents involving thefts from vehicles in our City, these crimes could have been easily prevented if the victim had simply locked their vehicle, and Officers would like to share the following safety tips:

- Thefts from vehicles in residential neighborhoods tend to be a crime of opportunity due to the fact that many people leave items in their vehicle and their vehicle unlocked. Nobody wants to be a victim of crime, but if you leave your purse, computer, tools or other valuables within plain sight, you’re increasing the risk that you will become a theft-from-vehicle victim.

- The message – *if thieves can see it, they will steal it*. A group of thieves can move through the area very quickly entering unlocked vehicles. The vast majority of the time thieves will move past a locked vehicle because they don't want to expend the time or risk getting caught trying to enter it.
- By taking the few seconds to simply lock your doors and taking valuable items with you or inconspicuously hiding them in a locked trunk, you can dramatically reduce the risk of being a crime victim. Don't forget that open vehicles can also give the criminal access to your garage door opener or even a spare house key, not to mention personal papers that increase your risk of also becoming a victim of identity theft.
- Whether in your driveway or parked on the street, **always** lock your car when it is unattended, even if you'll only be gone a few minutes.

Preventing crime is everyone's business. Crime prevention is successful when neighbors report any and all suspicious activities to law enforcement. Recognizing that neighbors are the resident experts of who and what belongs (and who and what doesn't) in their neighborhoods, this cooperation and collaboration with law enforcement is a vital tool in keeping our neighborhoods safe. If a person, vehicle or situation seems suspicious, act on your gut instinct and call the non-emergency number, 923-2350, and let an Officer investigate. If you believe a crime is occurring, call 9-1-1 immediately.

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