

Apartment/Condo Crime Prevention

Officer Demond Johnson
Montgomery County Police

Crime Prevention

- Crime Prevention is the anticipation, the recognition and the appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of action to remove or reduce it. Crime prevention is directed at stopping the problem before it happens by reducing the opportunities for crime; strengthening community and social structures.

High Rise/Condo Living

- High-rise living presents unique challenges when it comes to crime prevention. With a large number of residents living in close proximity, it is essential to implement effective crime prevention strategies, residents and property managers can work together to create a secure living environment.

Key Points

- Understanding the Risks – High-rise living buildings can be vulnerable to various types of crimes, including burglary, vandalism and unauthorized access.
- Collaborative Efforts – Crime prevention in high rise living requires a collaborative effort between residents, property managers and security personnel.
- Protective Measures – Implementing proactive measures, such as comprehensive security systems, regular maintenance, and community engagement, can help deter criminal activity and create a safer living environment for all residents.

Surveillance Cameras

- Installation – Place surveillance cameras in strategic locations such as common areas, entrances, exits, hallways and parking lots.
- Monitoring – Ensure that the cameras are monitored 24/7 by trained security personnel or a centralized monitoring system.
- Recording- Maintaining a recording system to store footage for at least 30 days.

Access Control Systems

- Key Cards and Biometric Systems. Implement access control systems that use key cards, biometric systems (such as fingerprint or facial recognition), or PIN codes to restrict entry to authorized individuals only.
- Visitor Management – Use visitor management system to track and control access for guests and service personnel.
- Security Personnel – Employ security personnel to monitor access points, conduct regular patrols, and respond to any security breaches.

Alarm Systems

- Fire Alarms – Install fire alarm systems that are connected to smoke detectors and sprinkler systems.
- Intrusion Alarms – Use intrusion alarm systems to detect unauthorized entry into the building.
- Emergency Response Systems – Implement emergency response systems that allow residents to quickly alert security personnel or emergency services in case of an emergency.

Commercial and Residential Assessments

- Visibility – Increase visibility by ensuring that windows and entrances face each other.
- Lighting – Use good lighting in all areas, including hallways, stairwells, parking lots, and entrances.
- Landscaping – Trim bushes and trees to eliminate potential hiding spots and ensure clear sightlines.

Territorial Reinforcement

- Property Lines – Use physical designs such as fences, walls, and hedges to define property lines and create a sense of ownership.
- Signage – Install clear and visible signage to indicate private property, restricted areas, no trespassing, and security measures in place.

Access Control

- Entry Points – Restrict access to certain areas through the use of gates, locks, and security personnel.
- Controlled Access – Implement controlled access systems for common areas such as gyms, pools, and laundry rooms.
- Visitor Management – Use visitor management systems to track and control access for guest and service providers.

Regular Maintenance

- Upkeep – Rapid removal of graffiti, repair broken windows and lights asap.
- Aesthetic Appeal – Maintaining a clean and well-kept environment to deter criminal activity.
- Routine Inspections – Conduct regular inspections of the building's infrastructure, such as stairwells, common areas.

Community Engagement

- Resident Interaction – Encourage residents to know each other and report suspicious activities/persons.
- Community Programs – Organize community safety meetings, activities, such as National Night Out.
- Volunteer Initiatives – Encourage residents to participate in volunteer initiatives that contribute to the safety and well-being of the community. Invite the Police to provide valuable insight and tips, such as community walks, community events, etc.

Elevator Safety

- Be cautious when entering the elevator. DO NOT get on an elevator with someone that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Be aware of your surrounding.
- Stand near the control panel. Push the alarm button if you suspect trouble. Push as many floor buttons as possible, so that you may exit as soon as possible.
- Call Someone on your cellphone.

Garage Safety

- Stay Alert – pay attention to your surroundings and anyone nearby. If something doesn't feel safe, leave and park somewhere else. Notify security.
- Avoid distractions – Texting on your cellphone.
- Call Someone and keep them on the cellphone while you are in the garage, so they can call for help if needed.
- Walk with confidence.
- Be wary of strangers.

Personal Safety - Walking

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Carry only what you need. (Charged cellphone, ID, 1 credit card, limited amount of cash).
- Follow the rules of the road. Obey traffic signals and signs. Use crosswalks.
- Safety in numbers. Walk with others, or let someone know where you are and what time to expect you home.
- Carry a whistle or alarm. If you are being followed, use the whistle or alarm to draw attention to you by others.
- If you think you are being followed, change your route. Go into a store, notify security, call police.
- Carry a flashlight if you will be out after dark.

Live Alone

- Do not advertise that you live alone.
- Always let someone know when you are going out and when you will return. (A missing person is missing when they are missing – no 24 hour waiting period required).
- Share your location with a family member or close friend if your cellphone has that feature.

Halloween Safety

- Have a sign up sheet at the front desk for units that will be handing out goodies for Halloween with set times.
- Adult chaperone with children.
- Children should not eat any of the candy until it has been inspected by an adult.
- Costumes should fit to prevent tripping and/or falls.
- Something outside units to indicate that they are participating in handing out candy.
- Safety in numbers, so go trick o treating in groups.

Reporting Incidents

- Call 911 for Emergencies
- Call 301-279-8000 for non-emergencies
- Text 911 if you can not call

See Something.....Say Something!

Important Information when Reporting

- Description: height, weight, race, gender, hair color, hair style, glasses
- Clothing description: describe clothing, color, shoes, hat
- Other descriptions: tattoos, language accent, words used, slang
- Vehicle: type, model, tag number, tag state, damage, color
- Direction of travel: north, south, street name, intersection
- WEAPONS: type, gun, rifle, shotgun, color of weapon, if you do not know, it is ok.

Montgomery County Police

2nd District

4823 Rugby Avenue

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Questions?



Contact

Officer Demond Johnson
Community Services Officer
Montgomery County Police

240-773-6727

Email: Demond.Johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov