

STAY AWARE - STAY SAFE - STAY INFORMED

CARJACKING:

Carjacking is a crime of opportunity -- a criminal searching for the most vulnerable potential victim. The most important thing to remember is that your car is replaceable, but you are not. Carjacking is a crime of violence that can be extremely scary. Knowing how to respond in a situation may mean the difference between serious injury or death and walking away unscathed.

TIPS TO LESSEN YOUR CHANCES OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF A CARJACKING:

- * Whenever possible, call the MCSD phone, in advance, when on your way home or leaving your home, if you feel unsafe or vulnerable. Please be mindful that MCSD officers may be handling other matters when you attempt to contact them. Please be patient if/when this occurs.
- * Do not remain inside of your car in your driveway or outside of your home, or at any other location, day or night.
- * Always be aware of your surroundings and limit your distractions when walking to and from your home.
- * Park in well-lit visible areas.
- * Keep windows up and doors locked.
- * Allow yourself room in traffic to move around other cars and avoid getting "boxed in."

TIPS IF YOU FIND YOURSELF THE VICTIM OF A CARJACKING:

- * Report the crime to the police immediately.
- * If the carjacker threatens you with a gun or other

weapon, GIVE UP YOUR CAR! Don't argue.

- * Get away from the area as quickly as possible.
- * Equip your vehicle with anti-theft or GPS, for tracking.
- * Keep your phone in your pocket, rather than in your car.

TIPS ON REDUCING YOUR RISK OF BECOMING A VICTIM WHEN YOU ARE ON THE ROAD:

- * Always keep your doors locked and windows rolled up (if it's hot and you don't have air conditioning, roll them up at least part way) no matter how short the distance you're traveling or how safe the neighborhood is.
- * If available, and when possible, drive in the center lane to make it harder for potential carjackers to approach the car.
- * Avoid driving alone. Travel with someone, whenever possible, especially at night.
- * When you are coming to a stop, leave enough room to maneuver around other cars, especially if you sense trouble and need to get away.
- * Always drive with the doors locked. If a thief can't get in your vehicle, you stand a better chance of leaving with it.
- * DON'T stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. You can help instead by calling the police for help.
- * Park in well-lit areas, near sidewalks or walkways. Avoid parking near Dumpsters, large vans or trucks, woods, or anything else that limits your visibility.
- * Never leave valuables out in plain view, even if the car is locked. Always put them in the trunk out of sight.

- * Try to park in a garage with an attendant. Leave only the ignition key, with no identification.
- * Even if you're rushed, look around before you get out and stay alert to your surroundings.
- * Always trust your instincts. If the situation doesn't "feel right," get away.

TIPS WHEN VISITING RESTAURANTS AND BARS:

- * When dining or drinking outdoors at an establishment, keep your purse, phone, and/or other valuables out of reach of would-be thieves.
- * While enjoying the many wonderful establishments in Mid-City, please always be mindful of your surroundings, particularly if you've been drinking alcohol. Persons crimes are usually crimes of opportunity.
- * When leaving an establishment -- when possible -- ask someone to watch and/or walk you to your car.
- * If, while walking to your car, you see something that gives you an uneasy feeling, walk back into the establishment and wait until you feel the threat has passed.
- * If you see something suspicious at an establishment, report it to management immediately.

TIPS WHEN AT HOME:

- * In an emergency, call 911 immediately.
- * For non-emergencies, call 504-821-2222 first, to have the call documented. Then -- if you live within the boundaries of MCSD, and have registered your contact information -- in addition to requesting a police escort to and from your home, you are also encouraged to call in reports of suspicious individuals and activities. You may also call to report noise complaints.

TIPS FOR STAYING INFORMED:

- * The public is welcome and encouraged to attend MCSD's monthly board meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. Crime maps and crime trends are presented at each meeting. Information is also available on the website, under Meetings & Reports.
- * In addition, The commander of MCSD: Sgt. Alfred Russell, is available to meet one on one with individuals one day each month (generally the third Thursday of the month), between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., at the 1st District Substation, 3000 Tulane Ave. Because space is limited, you must first register on the website.
- * Feel free to contact commissioners@midcitysecuritydistrict.org with any questions or comments you may have.