

January, 2010

Dear Friends,

Recently some citizens have witnessed and experienced a number of suspicious events involving strangers visiting their neighborhoods. At the same time, there have been break-ins and other crime problems in those very same neighborhoods.

I am writing to alert you to these issues and, also to pass along some safety and crime prevention tips from the Orlando Police Department.

For some reason, when the weather turns cold up north, a number of suspicious people find their way into our neighborhoods. For example, I have heard several recent neighborhood reports about people knocking on doors and looking for people that don't seem to exist, looking for public restrooms in areas that don't have any public restrooms and, using a variety of reasons to solicit funds door to door. While many of these situations may be perfectly innocent, some are situations where people are simply looking for opportunities to commit crimes.

The moral of these stories is to report suspicious activities, people and cars to 911. You are familiar with what is normal in your neighborhood. Many people have told me that they 'didn't feel right' about bothering the police for something that 'was probably nothing'. Or, that they 'didn't want to take the police from something more important like arresting bank robbers'. Maybe it was nothing but, maybe not. Don't feel guilty about calling 911 if you think that a police officer should patrol the neighborhood and check out a situation. The officers are called "patrol" officers for a reason. When you call 911 your concerns will be properly evaluated and, dealt with by the professionals who have the experience and training to do that.

Here are some other tips..

----Keep those garage doors closed and locked. Thieves will be attracted to open garage doors where they can easily take your property.

----Keep those house lights on . The days are short this time of year and, thieves are less likely to visit a house that is well lit.

----Ask the Orlando Police Department to come by your house and tell you how to make it safer. If you live in the City of Orlando, they will do that. For free. Call Officer Edgar Malave at 407-246-2513

----Call 911 to report suspicious activities and people in your neighborhood-Help the police department keep you safe.

District 1 Email List

From time to time, I send emails to keep people up to date on issues and events. If you would like to be added to this list so that you can also be up to date and receive these emails, please email or call. If you would like to be removed from this list please email or call.

Questions or Comments

If you have any other questions, comments or concerns, please call me at 407-246-2001 or email me at phil.diamond@cityoforlando.net . My aide, Jeanne Wilson, can be reached at 407-246-3011 or email at jeanne.wilson@cityoforlando.net and Police Officer Edgar Malave can be reached at 407-246-2513 or email at edgar.malave@cityoforlando.net.

Previous newsletters

Our website is www.cityoforlando.net/district1. On the home page you will see links to previous newsletters as well as other City and district information.

Best wishes for a great New Year!.

Phil Diamond