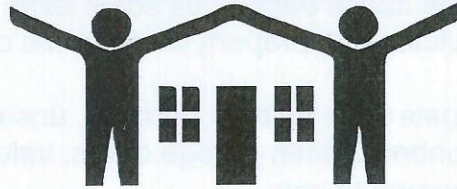


# CrimeWatch



**INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NORTH DISTRICT  
3120 E. 30<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
(317) 327-6100**

## **STEPS FOR SAFETY**

- ❖ Get to know your neighbors, their vehicles and routines.
- ❖ Keep exterior house lights on from dusk to dawn.
- ❖ Do not confront or attempt to apprehend a suspected criminal.
- ❖ Keep emergency numbers by the telephone.
- ❖ Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- ❖ Engrave identification on valuable items and keep a record of serial & model numbers in a safe place.
- ❖ Keep shrubbery, trees and bushes around the house trimmed.
- ❖ Make sure your house address number is visible on the front and on the garage.
- ❖ If you can afford it, get a home security and alarm system.
- ❖ Make home appear lived in at all times. Use timers on interior lights, radio and/or TV.
- ❖ Know who is on the other side of the door before opening it (be aware of scam artists and criminals)
- ❖ Do not put your name on the mailbox.
- ❖ Be active and support your community's initiatives and events.
- ❖ Get involved! Attend CrimeWatch and neighborhood meetings.



Practicing Crime Prevention has to involve a change of old habits. Crime prevention can seem inconvenient at the beginning, and cause each of us some extra work; but in the long run it will reduce your risk of becoming a victim of a property or personal crime.

Criminals often look for easy targets such as dark porches, unsuspecting people who are exiting their car or distracted with their phones, open garage doors, valuables left in plain view inside vehicles, or unlocked doors on homes or cars.

No one wants to think of ever becoming a victim of crime or to live in fear, but we all are potential victims and this information is intended to be an alternative to fear and worry, and it is well worth it making it part of our daily activities.

## **Could practicing Crime Prevention and Safety be inconvenient?**

### **It could be inconvenient because...**

- It will cause you to stay in your car to allow a stranger to walk far enough away before you exit your car and go inside your home or business.
- It will not allow you to heat your car in the winter by leaving it running unattended while you go back inside home.
- It will not allow you to leave your car unlocked and unattended while pumping gas, or the engine running while picking up a cup of coffee at the local gas station/coffeehouse.
- It will not allow you to leave your house door, window or garage open for fresh air through an unattended/unlocked screen door in the summer.
- It doesn't allow you to leave your bicycle unattended on the front porch or lawn.
- It doesn't allow you to leave your kids in the car while you run back in the house to grab something or run a quick errand at the store.
- It doesn't allow women to leave their purses unattended in the grocery shopping cart.
- It demands you to make sure you know who is on the other side of the door before opening it; and to call 911 immediately if you feel threatened or in danger.
- It requires that you lock the door after letting your dog out for his/her break.
- It requires that you are aware and alert of your surroundings at all times.
- It asks neighbors to look after and help their neighbors, in order to create safer and stronger communities.
- It asks you to **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY** to report any suspicious or criminal activity.

### **Gerardo Becerra**

Crime Watch Coordinator – I.M.P.D. North District

Department of Public Safety

[gerardo.becerra@indy.gov](mailto:gerardo.becerra@indy.gov)

Office: (317) 327-3781

[www.indycrimewatch.com](http://www.indycrimewatch.com)