



CERRITOS SHERIFF'S STATION

COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTER



REPORT MEMO

CERRITOS SHERIFF'S STATION
18135 BLOOMFIELD AVE., CERRITOS 90703
(562) 860-0044

Classification of Incident

File No.

Date of Report

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detective | (562) 860-0044 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court Deputy at Bellflower Court | (562) 704-8206 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint Desk | (562) 860-0044 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norwalk Juvenile Court | (562) 807-7201 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Matters | (562) 860-0044 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Control | (562) 570-7387 |

IF MISSING PERSON RETURNS, or if you learn his or her WHEREABOUTS, please notify this Department.

RECOVERY OF PROPERTY - Promptly report recovery of property if the recovery was not made by this Department. Notification concerning recovered property (except vehicles), or missing persons may be made by telephone.

RECOVERED VEHICLES - If you recover a vehicle other than through a law enforcement agency, you **MUST** make a signed report of such recovery at the nearest Sheriff's or police station.

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| Equifax | (800) 685-1111 |
| Experian | (888) 397-3742 |
| TransUnion | (800) 680-7293 |

www.safercerritos.com

Strategies For Safe Living



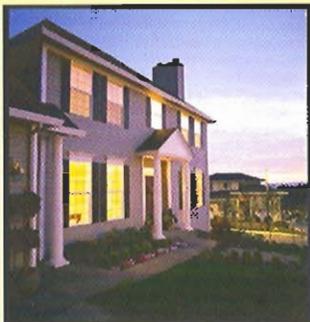
There is no question that most urban areas in America benefit with more police. California's population continues to increase, but the number of law enforcement officers per capita is not keeping pace with our population explosion. The fact is that police officers are very expensive, and it is unlikely we will ever have enough officers to serve every neighborhood all the time. Fortunately, the majority of crime in most cities is property crimes, and although most of these crimes are unlikely to be preventable no matter how many police officers are on a city's payroll, they are to a large degree preventable if residents use a little caution and follow a few basic "safe living strategies."

More simply stated, if we are willing to confront the "brutal facts," the bottom line is that you cannot rely on or expect a handful of patrolling police officers or Sheriff's deputies to prevent the property-related crimes that are so prevalent in our area. But if you pay attention to crime trends in your community, and if you routinely practice the following safe living strategies described in this pamphlet, the chances of becoming a crime victim are very close to zero. After years of examining and analyzing crime patterns in our region, here is what the Cerritos Community Safety Division staff recommends:

www.safercerritos.com

FOUR ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

◆ **BURGLARY:** Have a burglar alarm installed in your home that is connected to an alarm company. Each year there are roughly 2,580 burglaries reported in our region (*Paramount, Bellflower, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Cerritos, La Mirada, Norwalk, and Artesia*), and very rarely is a home with a good alarm system targeted. If a burglar does enter your home, he most likely will go directly to your master bedroom looking



for jewelry, cash, and credit cards. Store those items where it is unlikely a thief will find them when ransacking your home. And also keep an easily retrievable record of your credit card numbers and the numbers to call to cancel them quickly if they are stolen.

◆ **AUTO THEFT:** An average of 3,500 cars are stolen each year in our region. Older model Toyotas and Hondas are by far the most frequently stolen car, but a car with a steering wheel club is almost never stolen. Why become a victim when you don't have to? If you park your car outside of your locked garage, take ten seconds and put a club on the steering wheel.

◆ **AUTO BURGLARY:** Even more common in our region than car theft is car burglary. But the sad fact is that most people can easily avoid being the victim of this crime. Every week our Sheriff's Department gets several calls of cars broken into and purses, wallets, laptops, cell phones, backpacks, golf clubs, and other items of value that were left in plain sight are reported stolen. Commercial parking lots, particularly at fitness centers and regional shopping malls, are "watering holes" for thieves. If you don't leave valuables where crooks can see them, they'll pass on your car and go to the next one.

◆ **ROBBERY:** Finally, although the occurrence of street robberies is rare in our area, they do happen and are preventable to a great extent. Almost never is someone accosted walking down a sidewalk or in a commercial



parking lot when they are walking with someone. And while it may not be possible to always be with someone when shopping, a couple of defensive strategies will go a long way in "hardening the target." First, keep alert to your surroundings in a parking lot, and women should keep their purse on the side of the parked cars, not on the side of passing cars (occasionally a passenger in a passing car will reach out and grab a woman's purse). Second, never put your purse in the child seat area of a shopping cart, either while in a store or in the parking lot. Purses and wallets have been reported stolen when the owner is shopping and has turned away from the cart. Purses have also been stolen out of carts in parking lots while the victim is unloading bags into their car (always put your purse into your car first, and put it on the back seat floor rather than on a car seat).

Over 95 percent of the felony crime in Cerritos, and most likely in the other cities in our region, is not violent crime but property crime. And it is informed residents, not our law enforcement officers, who are able to prevent property crime. Unfortunately, most people tend to wait until the earthquake hits to become prepared for natural disasters, and most people wait until the crook strikes before they start paying attention to safe living strategies that will reduce their chances of becoming a crime victim. But why wait? Don't expect that anyone but yourself can protect you from the criminals in our midst. Routinely practice these safe living strategies, and let the crooks pick on the people who don't.