



## Southwest Precinct Public Safety Newsletter

March 2, 2007

Dear Community Friends,

### DV Liaison Officer for Southwest Precinct

Officer Ralph Wilson, former DV Detective, has returned to the Southwest Precinct. He is doing outreach to the Immigrant/Non-English speaking families who are the target of domestic violence and at risk youth in both South Park and south Delridge communities.

In order to have a successful outreach, there are many difficulties to overcome such as language barriers, cultural differences, and mistrust of the police.

Officer Wilson plans on establishing an active partnership with the many support organizations already in place. He is currently locating and identifying available resources and which public and private organizations would be most helpful.

He has been working closely with the Latino community in South Park, hoping to build a trusting relationship between the police and the community.

Officer Wilson wants to provide training and support to victims of domestic violence and their children. Officer Wilson plans to have workshops with individual ethnic groups in their own language focusing on domestic violence, youth violence, and gang recognition.

Officer Wilson's efforts will initially focus on the Latino and SE Asian communities. He plans on working closely with established organizations such as Consejo and REWA.

Innovation is a key to success in this new and never tried before program. Officer Wilson is in the process of having some forms translated into Spanish to help victims of domestic violence. These forms are essential in getting a conviction against abusers.

We are hoping this program can eventually be expanded based upon its success in these previously un-reached communities. Officer Wilson can be reached at 733-9593.

### Home Burglaries: Facts, Trends and Security Tips

Burglary continues to be a problem for Seattle residents. The Southwest Precinct would like to see a decrease in residential burglaries this year.

Based on incident reports, burglaries most often occurred between 11am-4 pm. Historically, the majority of burglaries occur during daytime when most people are away at work. Occasionally, occupied burglaries do occur. Occupied burglaries are rare. More often than not, burglars do not want to encounter anyone nor draw attention to themselves. They want to get in, get your valuables and get out.

- If you are home during the day, please take the time to **occasionally check outside and see what's happening** on your block. If you see someone or something suspicious, call and alert your neighbors to watch. If it looks like a crime is about to be committed or has been committed, then call 911. Alert neighbors are the best crime deterrent and burglar alarm.

A common point of entry has been an open/unlocked bathroom or kitchen window. In a great number of burglaries, burglars go through an open/unlocked door or window.

In warm weather months, people leave doors and windows open for ventilation. We see an increase in no-force burglaries

- This is why we continue to stress that you close and lock your doors and windows anytime you are away from home. Let's not make it easy for the criminal.

In the majority of burglaries, the suspects gain entry by force, usually by forcing open a rear door, breaking in through a ground level or basement window, or breaking the glass upper panel of the back/side door and reaching through the broken pane to unlock the door.

### Home Security – What Works

Physically securing your home is usually one of the least expensive and most effective burglary prevention measures. First, lock your doors and windows. When you are away from home, even for a short period of time, make sure your doors are locked and that your windows are shut and locked. Burglars look for an opportunity. An open window or door is an opportunity and I still read a number of incident reports where the burglars gained entry through an opened or unlocked door or window.

## Recommendations Regarding Your Doors Include:

- **Exterior doors should be strong** enough to withstand excessive force. We recommend solid core wood, metal or other reinforced doors. Reinforce your door jams or jam braces.
- Exterior doors should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw.
- Striker plates and door hinges for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction wall stud framing with the use three-inch long screws.
- High-risk windows (basement, garage, ground-level, partially or totally secluded, latched, etc.) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion.
- If you have double cylinder deadbolt locks (one that requires a key on both sides to open it), don't leave the keys in the lock, clearly displayed or within close proximity of the doors. **Note: per Seattle Fire Code, double cylinder deadbolts cannot be installed in rental properties.**
- If there is an interior door that separates the garage from the main living area, consider it the same as an exterior door and adopt the same precautions; deadbolt lock with a 1" throw and longer screws in the strike plates.
- The main entrance door should have a door-wide angle (180 degree) viewer/peephole.

Burglars often check to see if someone is home first. If someone is home they come up with some story as to why they knocked on your door and then go on down the block to another residence where someone is not home.

- **Do not open door to Strangers.** When someone comes to your door, answer the door. You want them to know someone is home. Answering the door does not mean *opening* the door. Always know who is on the other side of that door before you open it, even if you are expecting someone.
- Alert other neighbors to watch strangers going door to door.
- The main entrance door should have a wide-angle (180 degree) viewer/peephole.

## Be Mindful Who Is Out And About In Your Neighborhood.

Recently a young man (16-20) knocked twice on a neighbor's door at mid-day. The neighbor was slow to answer the door and assumes the young man thought that no one was home because he started to jiggle the door handle as the resident approached the door. When the resident answered the door, the young man quickly asked directions to a near by location and soon was on his way. The doorknob jiggle told the resident that the man's story was probably not legit and a police report was filed.

About an hour later, another neighbor a few blocks away had an unknown male come to the door. He knocked loudly several times and rang the doorbell. His two friends (one of whom fits the description given of the young man in the previous incident) waited for him on the sidewalk. When the resident answered the door, the young man asked for Chris. Afterwards, the young man went on his way. The neighbor found it suspicious, but did not file a report because there was no overt attempt to gain entry.

What is described above is a typical burglar tactic: find out if someone is home; if they are come up with some cover story as to why you are there; if no one is home, look for an open door window or make forced entry where you are least likely to be observed. Two things to keep in mind: First, if it seems suspicious to you, it probably is. Tell each other and call 911. Second, you don't have to wait for an overt attempt before you act. Trust your gut.

Please share this information with neighbors and friends.

*For More Information:*

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*Please check out the following links.*

*Police Blotter, Megan Sheppard, West Seattle Herald*  
<http://www.westseattleherald.com/articles/2007/02/27/news/police%20blotter/cops.txt>

Seattle Police Crime Statistics  
<http://www.seattle.gov/police/>

Seattle Police Department main web page  
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/crime/stats/pur170/200612y.htm>

Major crimes down in Seattle in 2006  
<http://www.seattle.gov/news/detail.asp?ID=7002&dept=40>