



# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE – Issue 5

07/10/2020

Residents of the City of Clever,

We hope everyone is moving forward with a positive mindset during this 'social distancing or forced isolation' time everyone is experiencing, depending upon your perspective. Moving away from the topic of masks and sanitizer, as always, we encourage everyone to be situationally aware and be as safe as you can for yourself, your family and others.

Crime is like a table with 3 legs - it takes all 3 legs for a table to stand, but if you take away one of the legs, the table isn't supported. Desire, ability, and opportunity - all 3 of these conditions must exist before a crime can be committed. The City of Clever Police Department knows that while we cannot stop someone from having a desire to commit crime, we can certainly remove their ability and opportunity. Crime Prevention is a community effort. With your help, the City of Clever Police Department can empower neighborhoods and citizens to do their part to recognize and help prevent crime.

## REDUCE YOUR RISK: [THEFT FROM AUTO PREVENTION](#)

Preventing automobile theft, and/or the theft of possessions inside, is the act of taking away the criminal's ability and/or opportunity. The occurrence of stolen items from cars, vans, and trucks is on the rise nationally. The reason stealing is so prolific is that oftentimes, we make it much too easy for a thief to steal valuables and the automobiles themselves.

Oftentimes, motorists leave vehicles unlocked, with possessions in plain view. Stolen items are typically sold for drugs, or just for the thrill of stealing. An expensive and troublesome result from automobile theft is that your personal information, when stolen and used, is identity theft, which can damage your credit.

### PREVENTION IS SIMPLE

- **Remove your valuables** - Leave them at home if you don't need them. If you need them with you, either put them in the trunk, under the seat, or take them with you. Do this when you are sure you are not being watched.
- **Lock it or Lose It!** - Lock your car doors and close the windows, period.
- **Location** - Choose a well-lit parking area, where there are other cars parked close by. Notify us if you see anything that looks suspicious. Stay alert when carrying packages to your vehicle to ensure you are not being followed or watched.

### COMMONLY STOLEN PROPERTY

- GPS units, both portable and fixed
- iPods and PDA's and accessories
- Laptop computers
- DVD/CDs and players / screens
- Money
- Cameras
- Garage door openers (which thieves can use to burglarize your home as well)
- Radar detectors
- Clothing
- Sports attire / equipment
- Anything of value

## REDUCE YOUR RISK: [RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES](#)

### BURGLARY: A CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever stepped back and looked at your residence from the perspective of a would-be criminal? Where do you think your vulnerabilities are? A burglary is often a crime of opportunity. Offenders generally look for an easy target, so making their job more difficult, or more of a risk, reduces the appeal to most criminals. Burglars will most often try for unlocked windows and doors as a means of entry. If you have windows and doors that create a challenge to criminals, they may move on to something easier. Burglars generally pick targets based on a number of key factors, which are listed below.

### LOCATION & FAMILIARITY

- Some burglars target homes close to where they live or revisit homes that have been previously burglarized
- Burglars may target multiple homes in a specific geographic area – on a block or in a specific neighborhood
- Houses near major thoroughfares or on the outskirts of a neighborhood

### OCCUPANCY

- The majority of home burglaries occur during the day when most people are away at work or school
- Signs of vacancy such as open garage doors, accumulated mail, or newspapers and overgrown lawns may indicate that no one is home or that the owner may be out of town



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- Houses without dogs

### VISIBILITY

- Houses with cover - obscured views of doors and windows, including trees and dense shrubs, walls, and fences, and architectural features such as latticed porches
- Houses that are secluded - homes that are isolated from view, on large lots or next to nonresidential land
- Houses with poor lighting - poor lighting, especially around entry points, reduces a burglar's visibility to neighbors

### VULNERABILITY

- Houses with weakened entry points - older houses may have easily compromised locks or worn and decaying window and door frames, while newer houses may be built with cheap materials
- Houses whose residents are careless about security - burglarized houses often have unlocked or open windows or doors

### REDUCE YOUR BURGLARY RISK

- Harden targets - Install sturdy doors with dead bolts, window locks rather than latches, and sliding glass door channel locks or slide bolts
- Increase occupancy indicators - Leave interior and exterior lights on with timers or sensors, close curtains, and park cars in the driveway
- Improve visibility - Trim trees and shrubs and modify fencing so they do not block the view of the house from neighbors or passersby
- Increase exterior lighting - Install exterior lights and well placed, motion-activated perimeter lighting
- Install an alarm system or closed-circuit television

### REDUCE YOUR RISK: [SMART CONSUMER TIPS](#)

- Whether your home repair is due to a natural disaster or you just need an update, it's important to take certain precautions when hiring a contractor. Certain contractors are required to have a City business license. To see if the contractor has a current City of Clever business license, call (417) 743-2544.
- **Do Your Research.** Before hiring a contractor, ask your friends or family for recommendations. Get written bids from three or more contractors and do a close comparison of what work is included and what building permits or materials will be required. Remember, the lowest bid is not always the best bid.
- **Be Informed.** Contact the Missouri Attorney General's Office at (800) 392-8222 or [http://consumer.ago.mo.gov/know\\_mo/](http://consumer.ago.mo.gov/know_mo/) to see if other consumers expressed concern about a particular contractor.
- **Get Everything in Writing.** After selecting a contractor, insist on a written agreement that clearly states the work to be done, when the work will be done and the final cost. The contract should outline payment schedules and require your satisfaction before final payment. You should also consider if the contractor requires lien waivers and ensure that material suppliers and sub-contractors have been paid before issuing the final payment.
- **Door-To-Door Home Repair.** Be wary of door-to-door repair offers. They may state that they "Just happen to be in your neighborhood." or "Can see from the street that you need a new roof." Typically, these offers turn out to be scams that result in inadequate work by unlicensed contractors – leaving you as consumers with little recourse when you are unhappy with the results.

Feel free to reach out to the City of Clever Police Department, as we are here for you at 210 South Clarke, Clever, or through email at [policechief@clevermo.com](mailto:policechief@clevermo.com). If you have urgent concerns and need immediate attention/service: 911 for an emergency, 417-582-1030 for Dispatch to request an Officer, or 417-743-5109 for non-emergency business at the City of Clever Police Department.

Thank you,

**JEFFREY D LOFTON**  
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RESPONSIBILITY – ACCOUNTABILITY - PROFESSIONALISM