Dear University Community Members,

Crime Prevention is a simple matter of Opportunity Reduction. Our agency uses several different strategies in combating the problem of crime on campus to include: Patrol by both sworn police officers and non-sworn student police auxiliary members; 24 hour escort service; Team of criminal investigators; Team of strategic enforcement response officers; Monitored University-wide closed-circuit camera system; 300 blue light emergency telephones; and an automated building security system and alarm system.

Our sworn patrol officers respond to crimes in progress, complete incident / accident reports, and handle calls for service 24 hours a day/seven days a week. The Student Police Auxiliary conduct escorts, staff the security gates, perform foot patrol, and fulfill many campus-wide security related functions. These efforts are supported by a staff of administrative employees within the various bureaus of the department.

With all of the services and functions listed above, there is still the potential for crimes of violence within our community. I am asking for your help in our effort to reduce the occurrences of crime both on and off campus. Together, we can make a difference. Your role in preventing crime cannot be stressed enough. You can help discourage crime by decreasing your vulnerability and, therefore, the opportunities for criminals to strike.

Crimes of violence such as rape, robbery and assault are crimes of opportunity. Denying a criminal the opportunity to commit a crime is paramount to your personal security. I would ask that you do two things to lessen those opportunities.

1) Create a Personal Safety Plan
2) Incorporate the Safety Precautions into your daily routine

**Personal Safety Plan**
- **Program (301) 405-3333, the UMDPS Emergency Number into your personal mobile phone or Dial #3333 from any mobile device**
- Trust your instincts. They are a natural gift that tells you when something is wrong.
- Be ready to take protective action if necessary. This could be something as simple as crossing the street and entering a populated area.

**Safety Precautions**
- Be aware that you are a potential victim of crime
- Keep all personal items secure and locked away
- Stay alert and attuned to people and circumstances around you - electronic devices that block your hearing or split your attention make it difficult for you to remain vigilant
- Note the locations of the Blue Light Emergency Phones and look for them as you walk.
- Report suspicious activity/people to the police immediately.
• Be aware of suspicious vehicles - Vehicles with their headlights off or that slow down near you may pose a potential threat. Move away from the vehicles, quickly move to a populated area and provide an accurate description of the vehicle to police.
• Avoid isolation. After dark, walk with others and use well-lit paths. Department of Public Safety escort services are available 24/7.
• Do not hitchhike or pick up hitchhikers.
• Do not carry your name, address or car license number on your key ring.
• Never leave wallets, purses, checkbooks, laptops and other personal property of value lying visibly in a room or vehicle or unattended in public places.
• Always lock your door even if you leave for “just a minute.”
• Always lock your door when you go to sleep.
• Do not leave notes on your door announcing you are not at home.
• Close curtains at night.
• Do not take in overnight guests you don’t know.
• Do not prop open any building doors.
• Do not open doors to strangers.
• Do not allow unescorted visitors into residence halls or apartment buildings.
• Lock windows and security screens
• Work out an agreement with your neighbors, roommates and housemates to practice good safety and security habits.

In the unfortunate event that you do become victimized, we ask that you contact the Department of Public Safety immediately to report the incident. Do this prior to calling anyone else. Please follow the instructions of the police communications operator answering your call. The quicker a report of a crime is made to police, the better the chances are of locating and identifying the person who committed it.

Excessive alcohol consumption is the largest contributor to victimization and crime. UMDPS understands the social aspect of college life, but asks that you drink responsibly and encourage the same of your friends.

Please try to incorporate the safety precautions into your daily routine. I hope you find this crime prevention information useful and informative. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the University of Maryland Crime Prevention Unit.

Sincerely,

Sergeant August D. Kenner
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