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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holiday season upon us, most people are preoccupied with the details of holiday planning and shopping. Unfortunately, the safety precautions we normally take can be forgotten as the excitement of the season causes us to let our guard down. The Westchester County Department of Public Safety wants this to be a SAFE holiday season for all, so we remind you to follow these safety tips.

- ✍️ **Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals often target people who are distracted.**
- ✍️ **Whether driving, walking or taking public transportation, plan the trip in advance. Know how to get to your destination by the most direct and safest route.**
- ✍️ **Travel on populated, well lit streets. If possible, travel with a friend.**
- ✍️ **Remind children to be wary of strangers.**
- ✍️ **When driving, keep your doors locked and the windows closed. Make sure the gas tank is full. Maintain your car in good working order to avoid breakdowns.**
- ✍️ **If possible, stay in designated waiting areas or in view of the booth clerk or station employees while awaiting your train. Never walk or stand near the edge of the platform.**
- ✍️ **Plan your purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash or number of credit cards necessary to make the purchase. If you must carry a large**

sum of money, divide the cash between your purse, pockets and wallet.

- ✍️ **Cancel credit cards you don't use and keep a record of the account numbers for each credit card you possess. This will facilitate reporting the theft or loss of the cards. Make photo copies of all your credit cards so that if they are lost or stolen you will have a record of the account numbers.**
- ✍️ **Carry your purse close to your body. Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of the elbow. Never wrap the strap around your body.**
- ✍️ **Always lock your car. Before getting into your car, check the back seat to make sure no one is hiding there.**
- ✍️ **If you are carrying a wallet, carry it in the breast pocket of your jacket or in your side pants pocket. The rear pants pocket is one of the easiest to pick.**
- ✍️ **When in a restaurant, don't leave your handbag over the back of your chair or on the floor. Don't leave belongings unattended.**
- ✍️ **Whenever possible, place items out of sight in the trunk of your vehicle prior to reaching your destination, you never know who is watching. Never leave packages in the passenger compartment unattended.**
- ✍️ **Don't wait until you have reached your front door to look for your keys. Have them ready in your hand. If a stranger is standing near your door, it may be a good idea not to go in until the situation feels safer.**
- ✍️ **Lock your front door immediately upon entering your home.**
- ✍️ **If you live in an apartment building, don't buzz in someone who rings your bell until you have verified who they are. This will help protect both you and your neighbors.**
- ✍️ **If you have elderly family members or neighbors, please remember to check in on them.**
- ✍️ **Be wary of con artists. Con artists use a number of ploys to scam you and steal your property. Some divert your attention while another picks your pocket, some pose as utility workers or as a trades person to gain access to the inside of your home, while others conduct scams that are more elaborate involving several con artists.**

~~✍~~ **Be wary of telephone and email solicitations asking for personal information about your accounts, passwords or social security number.**

~~✍~~ **As a consumer you should avoid illegal vendors selling goods on the street. Purchase merchandise only from licensed vendors or reputable stores. Follow your instincts. Remember, “If it seems too good to be true, it probably is”.**

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

In case of emergency, dial 911

WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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COUNTY POLICE

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