



# PROTECTING YOUR OWN HOME AGAINST BURGLARIES



**Mayor Carmen Amato**

**Chief Kevin Santucci**

We would like to remind residents that there are several ways you can help yourselves prevent becoming the victim of a burglary; and several ways you can assist the police if you witness a burglary or a suspicious incident.

First things first - every resident should assess their property and attempt to "harden the target." What this means is to walk the perimeter of your home and look at areas that may make you vulnerable. Do you have a landscaping rock securing the tarp on your air conditioner? Is your ladder secured on the side of your residence with easy access? How about your shrubbery? Is it trimmed and well kept in a manner that would not offer cover for someone trying to hide? Is your property illuminated at night? Do you have motion activated lights?

Once your assessments on the perimeter are complete, move to the inside of your residence and do the same thing room by room. Look at this through the eyes of a burglar. If you own a firearm, is it locked and stored in a safe location? Where do you store your valuable jewelry? Do you have easy access to large amounts of cash which can be found? Do you have photographs of your valuable property? We strongly recommend that you do take photographs to help the police for recovery effort in the unlikely event you are a victim of a burglary.

What can you do to help if you realize you have become the victim of a burglary? First and foremost, exit your home and go to a safe location such as your vehicle or a neighbor's house. After you are safe, immediately contact the police. Do not touch anything in your house; the police officer who arrives at the scene will assist you in determining your loss at the proper time.

You should supply the officer with the most accurate information that you have to help assist in the investigation. You can also assist the police by reporting suspicious cars and people who you may observe in and around your neighborhood. Make no mistake - every reported burglary happens by either a person or persons arriving in a vehicle or on foot. Most arrested burglars will tell you they were seen by many residents. If you see someone suspicious, NEVER confront them - leave that to the police. What you can do is become a great witness. Try to get a very good description of their physical characteristics, the clothes they are wearing, what they are carrying and their direction of travel. If they are in a vehicle, supply as much information as you can about it: license plate, two door or four door, color, number of occupants, any identifying stickers or permits on the windows. You can never provide too many details!

Lastly, please don't become confused with who to call and when to call. If you think you observe a crime in progress call 911 immediately. During an emergency every second counts. We have encountered some confusion with our tip line.

Please let this be a reminder that **our tip line (732) 341-1132, Ext. 611** is only for matters that do not require an immediate police response. It is not for emergencies. Some examples for using the tip line are suspicious vehicles coming and going to a residence. If you suspect any type of illegal activity, you may call the tip line and remain anonymous.

Our police department puts much time and effort into prevention and education, as well as the arrest and prosecution of the individuals who commit this type of crime. We realize we can never do enough.