



Denis Law, Mayor

CITY OF RENTON

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Working Together To Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe – Renton Neighbors Help Police Catch Burglars

by Mayor Denis Law

Last week Renton residents in the Talbot Hill area noticed a couple of strangers prowling around one of the homes in their neighborhood. Being suspicious of their activity these good Samaritans alerted the police. It turns out that the two people were in the process of burglarizing the home. Within minutes Renton Police arrived on the scene and, thanks to the neighbor's call to 9-1-1, were able to apprehend and arrest the two suspects.

To succeed in our battle against crime and keep our community safe we need the combined efforts of police and people in the neighborhood. The fact is that our police officers cannot be in all places at all times; however, many crimes can be prevented if people are alert for suspicious activity and take appropriate measures to notify police. The most effective way to catch burglars is with the help of the public, when someone calls in a suspicious person or vehicle or when a burglar is in their neighborhood.

It is a cliché but crime prevention truly does begin at home. If our neighbors can be extra vigilant and be our eyes and ears, together we can prevent crime and help keep our neighborhoods safe. If you observe any suspicious activity, even if you are not sure what you are observing, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

Most residential burglaries happen during the day when people are away at work. Often, all it takes is one or two people, who case neighborhoods, looking for homes where residents aren't home and they may commit five or six burglaries a day. A few days of doing this and our city's crime rate can rise dramatically in just a short time. If we get to know our neighbors and understand their habits, we can recognize activity that doesn't fit or feels wrong for the neighborhood. One call, such as the one by the concerned citizens at Talbot Hill, may not only prevent a crime in your neighborhood, it may also help end a string of burglaries in our city.

The City of Renton has a wonderful neighborhood watch program that helps to encourage community safety. Neighbors can help lower crime by recruiting and encouraging people to watch for, prevent and report incidents. People can also learn about crime prevention and safety, promote neighborhood communication, and build community pride in our neighborhoods. For crime prevention tips, or if you are interested in starting a neighborhood watch, call (425) 430-7521 or visit rentonwa.gov.