



# CITY OF STANFORD

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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## THEFT PREVENTION TIPS:

**Never leave personal belongings unattended:** unguarded items invite the thief. This includes articles left in automobiles, whether the car is locked or not.

**Always remove articles from view:** the trunk is the best place to leave them if they must stay in the car. Wallets, pocketbooks, etc., are prime targets for the “hit and run” thief; if possible, your items should stay with you all the time. Often people leave such items unguarded while leaving their vehicle, rooms and offices for a moment or two (to visit a friend, go to a washroom, answer a phone, etc.), and upon their return find their valuables missing.

**Lock your doors when you are leaving your room, office, or lab:** Most of the thefts from such areas occur when the areas are unlocked. Doors and windows have locks, use them. If they are not in proper working order, report it without delay to your maintenance department.

**Take advantage of “Operation Identification”:** an effort on the part of many police agencies to convince people to mark their valuables in some distinctive, obvious fashion. Such as initials, designs, or numbers... After marking your valuables, make a list of what was marked and record the initials, numbers, etc., used for this marking. (Using your smart phone and photographing your valuable item(s) provides details such as serial number, model, manufacturer, etc., in the event your item is stolen or lost). Without the above information, it is difficult to recover and reunite the victim/owner with their item(s).

Criminals do not like having their chances of being detected increased! Identifying your items makes “fencing”, pawning, selling, or trading such items considerably more difficult.