

# CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR GARAGE SALES

- Have two or more people working the sale. Be aware that criminals may work in teams in an attempt to distract you or overwhelm you with customers, to commit a crime.
- Keep your cellphone with you at all times for emergencies. Remember to use your camera phone to capture license plates or suspect information if needed.
- Place smaller, more expensive items next to your checkout table.
- Place large items around the perimeter of the sale so that you can easily see the sale area and there are no concealment opportunities.
- Have a discussion with your family, including children about vehicle safety due to increased traffic around the neighborhood.
- Communicate to your neighbors that you will be having a sale. Encourage neighbors to close their garage doors to reduce the chance of a criminal taking advantage of an open door opportunity. Also remind them to report suspicious activity to 9-1-1.
- Watch for customers blocking alleys with their vehicles, post signs asking visitors to not block the alley or driveways. Politely remind them or contact police for assistance. Blocking an alley is a safety concern for first responders in the event of an emergency.
- Cover items or remove them from your garage if they are valuable or not for sale. It's better to hold your sale outside of the garage to keep strangers from entering your home or having access to an interior door.
- Keep pets secure.
- Never leave your sale unattended.
- Consider purchasing a counterfeit bill detector pen from any office supply store.
- Keep a minimal amount of cash on hand. Avoid having a cashbox visible and never make change with a customer next to you so they can see the amount of cash you have collected. Only keep enough change for \$20.00. For larger transactions consider telling the person you will hold the item until they can return with the correct amount. Take large bills or collected amounts of money to a secure location inside your home while another person attends your sale. Avoid taking personal checks.
- Avoid talking with customers about personal information or questions about your schedule, living situation, or what's in your house.

- Keep doors and windows locked during your sale, do not let people use your house for any reason, including trying on clothes, testing a small appliance to see if it works, using the bathroom.
- Keep gates locked that lead into your backyard.
- Good customer service is also a great crime prevention technique, greet all customers, so they know they have been seen.
- Be sure to take down your signs around the neighborhood after the sale.

