



City of Marco Island

Date: November 17, 2015
To: City Council
From: Chief Al Schettino
Re: Recent Burglaries on Marco Island

The Marco Island Police Department is actively investigating a series of 11 burglaries that have occurred over the past six weeks (between 10/5/15 and 11/15/15). The burglaries have occurred during daylight hours and nearly all involved forced entry of unoccupied homes through a standard or sliding glass door.

These incidents have occurred in the following areas:

- 100 Block of South Beach Dr.
- 500 Block of Nassau Rd.
- 700 Block of Planation Ct.
- 800 Block of Elm Ct.
- 600 Block of Bald Eagle Dr.
- 1200 Block of Fruitland Ave.
- 1200 Block of Apricot Ave.
- 1300 Block of Jamaica Rd.
- 1800 Block of Granada Dr. (2)
- 1800 Block of Dogwood Dr.

Immediately, upon my request, the City Manager authorized MIPD to add a third Detective (Joe Mack) to assist in investigating these cases. The Manager also supported my decision to increase routine community service activities to generate additional police presence and increased patrols (both uniform & plain clothes) in the affected areas. The Department has developed evidence in the form of fingerprints, as well as electronic signals associated with handheld electronic devices. This evidence has led us to continue the investigations in the Naples Manor section of Naples and College Park area of Ft. Myers.

As a result of these efforts, several leads on suspects have been developed. We continue to investigate these adult and juvenile suspects while we probe the possibility of additional suspects. Additionally, the Department has been in constant contact with our allied law enforcement agencies and will continue to utilize State and Federal criminal justice databases in a coordinated effort to identify those responsible for these incidents.

Lastly, we encourage all residents to lock all their doors and windows and be watchful of unusual activity in their neighborhood, and to report any suspicious behavior immediately by calling 911.

The Marco Island Police Department offers the following crime prevention tips for preventing residential burglaries:

- ✓ Make the home look occupied! TV's, radios, lights, dogs, and vehicles all present the image that someone is home.
- ✓ Don't signal that the home is vacant. An overgrown lawn, newspapers or mail stacked up tell would be burglars that the home is unattended.
- ✓ Make sure entry points are not hidden from view. Doors or windows hidden by trees or hedges offer a hiding spot for bad guys.
- ✓ Consider an alarm system & post alarm stickers or signs to warn to burglars. If you have an alarm please use it!
- ✓ Don't showcase your valuables. Large TV's visible from the street or the box in came in at the curb are negative type advertisements.
- ✓ Vary your routine, leave lights on in different areas, park your car outside from time to time, etc.
- ✓ Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- ✓ Don't hide keys intruders often look for them.
- ✓ Don't leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping".
- ✓ Don't tempt a thief – lawn mowers, barbeques and bikes are best stored and secured out of sight.
- ✓ Pin windows or sliding glass doors.
- ✓ Be a good neighbor; watch out for your neighbor's property while they are away.
- ✓ The most important thing you can do is CALL THE POLICE (911 or 389-5050) to report a crime or any suspicious activity.