

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157
410-848-4646



JEFFREY SPAULDING
CHIEF OF POLICE

MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
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WESTMINSTER POLICE AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONDUCT JOINT PATROLS TO REDUCE HOLIDAY CRIME

Once again this year, the Westminster Police Department and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office are collaborating on a joint effort to reduce crime in commercial areas during the holiday season. The **Holiday Crime Prevention Patrol Initiative**, as the annual program is known, places dedicated uniformed officers and deputies in the commercial areas along Main Street and Route 140 in Westminster. These officers and deputies conduct high visibility vehicular and foot patrols in an effort to decrease crimes such as robberies, retail theft, shoplifting and theft from vehicles that can often occur in the weeks leading up to the holidays. The initiative kicked off on "Black Friday" and will continue through the holiday season. ***As part of the initiative, an officer will be assigned to the Main Street business district during the evening hours through New Year's Eve.***

Citizens are reminded to "shop smart", particularly during the holiday season, to minimize the chances of being victimized. Sound strategies include:

- Park in well-lit areas and walk in groups.
- Park close to the entrance of the store or the mall if possible.
- Keep your eyes open and be aware of your surroundings. Don't talk on your cell phone when walking – it tends to distract you from your surroundings.
- Carry your keys in your hand as you walk to your vehicle.
- Always lock your car and take your keys.
- Store packages and valuables in a locked trunk and away from prying eyes.
- Call 911 if you feel you are in danger or see something suspicious.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

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MEDIA CONTACT

CAPTAIN MISTY BUDZINSKI
WESTMINSTER POLICE
DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
21157
(410) 848-4280