

CITY-WIDE CRIME NOTES FROM OCTOBER 2021:

Part 1 crime for October was down about 3% compared to last year and about 17% compared to the average of the last 5 years. Even with our low numbers, there are still a couple things that I want us to be aware of:

- **Catalytic Converter Thefts:** Catalytic converters are being targeted again. This is a city-wide trend that is most frequently happening overnight, although we do have seen some occurrences during daylight hours. There is a slide in the PowerPoint with prevention tips, so please check that out. Also, we partnered with the Costa Mesa & Huntington Beach Police Departments along with Expertec Automotive for a free etching event a couple weekends ago. Etching your VIN or license plate number into the catalytic converter can help law enforcement confirm that it belongs to you if it is stolen. If you missed the event, ask your mechanic if they will do the etching for you – or you can reach out to Expertec who will be having more opportunities for free catalytic converter etching in the future: <https://expertecautomotive.com/contacts/>

- **Residential Burglaries:** Although our residential burglary numbers were pretty good for October, we're still starting to see these numbers creeping back up to what we saw before 2020. Especially with holiday travel coming up, this is a time to be extra vigilant about home security. To help with this, I've attached the Home Security Checklist with lots of tips for securing your home. Please share this resource with friends, family & neighbors! In addition, I just want to reiterate the tips that I've shared in the past that I still think will be helpful:
 - o **Keep an eye on your neighbor's house while they're away (and ask them to do the same while you're gone).** If you see or hear anything suspicious, give NBPD a call right away.
 - o **Secure all windows & doors every time you leave the house.** Don't forget to set your alarms if you have them as well.
 - o **Don't advertise or give the appearance that you aren't home.**
 - § This means save the vacation social media posts for when you get back home.
 - § Have indoor lights on timers to make it seem like someone's home & there's normal activity in the house.
 - § If you're going out for the evening, leave a television or a radio on in the house.
 - § Have outdoor lights on photocells, so the front of our house is well-lit from dusk to dawn.
 - § Arrange to have your mail & newspaper stopped while you're out of town. Or have a trusted neighbor or friend pick it up each day.

- **Bike Thefts:** This October, we had a significant increase in bike thefts (almost 60%) compared to the average of the last five Octobers. Many of these instances involved unlocked bikes or bikes that had the locks cut. Please make sure you & your

family members have good high-quality locks for your bikes and that you are using them properly.

- o Also, remember to register your bike at Project529.com/newportbeach. It's free & takes just five minutes. If your bike is ever stolen, this can help us get it back to you!

- **Burglaries & Thefts from Vehicles:** Here are two trends we've seen lately when it comes to this type of property crime:

- o Shopping Centers: I know we touched on this last month, but I want to reiterate that shopping center parking lots can be a targeted area for car break-ins – especially during the upcoming holiday season. Please do not leave shopping bags or any other valuables unattended in your vehicles.
- o Neighborhoods: We also had some incidents where specific neighborhoods are getting hit with lots of car break-ins in short periods of time. One night, Balboa Peninsula had over 10 reports taken from the same night. Just last week, Newport North had several thefts the same night. Newport Heights had quite a few over the course of the month of October. Just from reading some of these reports, I saw that purses, ipads and other property left in the front seats of cars parked on the street. I know it's easy to forget, but we need to be extra diligent to not make our neighborhoods attractive targets for burglars.