



Crime and Safety Update – April 2024

Thank you.

The last several years I have sent a dedicated letter regarding crime and safety in our City, and thanks to you, our Police, the Crime & Safety Committee and City staff, Mission Hills has made great progress.

In 2023 we saw reductions in every major category of crime as noted below.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Burglary	13	15	25	4	14
Theft	43	81	55	44	34
Auto Theft	7	21	15	10	10

This progress does not happen by accident, and it is not a destination. Just as the Chiefs’ goal every year is to win the Super Bowl, our goal every year should be zero crime. To that end, I want to update you on some key initiatives and remind everyone that vigilance is constantly needed.

How Can You Continue to Help?

Lock your car. Always. Don’t leave your keys in your car – modern cars with a FOB are remarkably easy to steal when that FOB is in the car. They are almost impossible to steal without it. And most thieves don’t want to make the effort to break into a locked car, unless...

Keep valuables out of sight. A computer backpack in the back seat or a purse in the front seat is a magnet. Of the small number of times we have had car windows broken, the majority involved valuables in plain sight.

Call if you see something suspicious. 913-642-5151 is the non-emergency Police number. Please add it to your speed dial. We are fortunate to have the resources to respond to suspicious activity, and a call to this number will NEVER supersede a 911 call. Emergency = 911. Suspicious = 913-642-5151.

9 o’clock routine. Those of you who have read this letter over the years have heard this, but please make it as much a part of your nightly routine as brushing your teeth!

Additional Updates

Cameras/LPRs – We have completed almost all the Phase III installations of cameras and license plate readers (LPRs). As you drive throughout the City, you will see them at main intersections including 63rd & State Line, Belinder Circle, and Tomahawk & Mission.

As our Police Chief Roberson reported at the Joint Homes’ Meeting in January, our cameras and LPRs have helped them arrest many criminals, including several with violent backgrounds. These tools work and we will be assessing the installation of Phase IV later this year that would put a camera and/or LPR at the remaining ingress/egress points in our City.

I have been asked by a few residents about privacy. Our cameras and LPRs are looking for outstanding warrants, stolen vehicles and violent offenders. They are not tracking movement or whereabouts. If you carry a mobile phone or have an electric vehicle, you give an order of magnitude more location and private data each day through your device.

Solicitation – As I noted last year, commercial solicitors must now register with the City in advance of soliciting. Any commercial solicitor who comes to your home should be able to produce a copy of said registration.

The City maintains a “No Commercial Solicitation” opt-out list. You may add your address to this list. If you are on this list and the Police receive a report of commercial solicitation at your home, they can more aggressively address the situation.

To add your home to the “No Solicitation” list, please feel free to call City Hall at 913-362-9620, or go to the City’s Solicitation page here:

<https://www.missionhillsks.gov/380/Solicitation>

And remember, you can pick up a “No Solicitation” door sticker at City Hall too.

Fraud

I’m sure the majority of you have heard about the power of AI and its ability to mimic voices. The trick of your children or grandchildren needing money immediately is now easier to pull off. Fraud existed before AI, but now has a new tool, so please be mindful. As with anything, if it seems suspicious, it likely is suspicious. Please report it to our Police.

Coyotes

We are no longer trapping coyotes, but they remain present in our City. They recently attacked a small pet in Fairway, so please take appropriate precautions.

We Still Need Your Help!

We have made progress, but we must always be mindful. This has always been and will be my and the Council’s top priority.

Here is what you can do:

Lock Your Car & Keep Valuables Out of Sight

Approximately 90% of the vehicles stolen last year were unlocked with the keys in them. Please lock your vehicle – every time. Please take purses, computers and other valuables out of plain sight in your vehicle.

9pm Routine

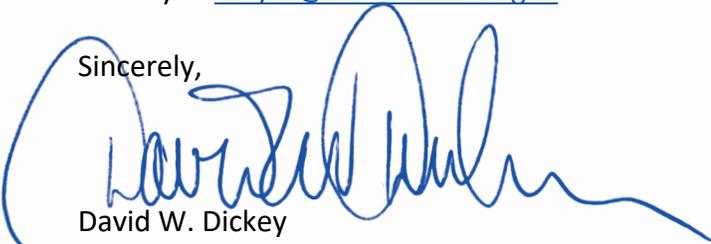
Make a habit at 9pm every night to do the following:

- Double check any cars you park outside and remove valuables.
- Lock any outside cars.
- Close your garage door (in just the first two months of this year, the police have already found 15 open doors, most in the overnight shift!).
- Make sure your exterior lights are on.
- Make sure your doors are locked.
- Turn on your alarm (if you have one).

As a fellow resident told me at the Joint Homes’ Meeting, they think about this issue like a seat belt. They never drive anywhere without it and approach the 9pm Routine the same way.

Thank you again. As always, please don’t hesitate to call City Hall with any questions or email me directly at mayor@missionhillssks.gov.

Sincerely,



David W. Dickey
Mayor