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MEDIA RELEASE

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HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR REDUCING PACKAGE THEFT

As the holiday season approaches, many people shop online and have packages delivered to their homes. Unfortunately, this offers an easy opportunity to commit thefts as packages are often left by the delivery services. Thieves looking to steal your packages will follow or watch for UPS, Fed Ex, US Mail, and other delivery service trucks so they can target your home after the parcels are delivered. Below are some "Package Theft Prevention Tips" for you to use which will help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this crime.

Package Theft Prevention Tips

- Ask for a tracking number. Most major shipping companies offer this service at no charge. This number allows you to track your packages and notifies you when they will be delivered.

- Request a “Signature Delivery Option”. This requires a signature when the packages are delivered and ensures they will not be left at the front door.
- For high dollar items, pay extra to insure the package.
- Request a specific drop off time and date when you will be home to accept your packages.
- Arrange to have your packages held at the shipping service so you can pick them up.
- Ask the delivery service to leave your packages at a side or back door. An enclosed porch where packages are out of sight is also a good option.
- Have your packages delivered to your workplace.
- Have your packages delivered to the home of a relative or neighbor who will be there to accept them.
- Ask to have your packages delivered to a retail store so you can pick them up at your convenience.
- Ask a trustworthy neighbor to keep a “Watchful Eye” out for you packages. If they’re willing, ask them to safeguard your packages until you return home.
- Leave a note for the carrier instructing them where to leave your packages (Ex: backdoor).

- If your packages do not arrive as scheduled contact the sender immediately.

If you observe what you believe is a theft in progress, call 9-1-1 and provide as much information as possible. Any suspicious activity should also be reported to 973-538-2200 so that uniformed police officers can investigate.

Together we can ensure that everyone has a safe holiday season.