



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC #149-2009

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: June 5, 2009

SUBJECT: Middle District Residential Burglaries

Since March of 2009, there have been a number of residential burglaries occurring in the Middle District, specifically in the area of Dade Boulevard north to 63 Street, and from Pinetree Drive west to North Bay Road. The majority of these burglaries have taken place while the owners or renters were away from their homes, including some that were away for a brief period of time. The perpetrator or perpetrator(s) have been able to gain unlawful entry through windows and glass sliding French style doors in the rear of the residences. Once inside a residence, the targeted property has been primarily jewelry.

In response to this crime trend, the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) began deploying both uniform patrol and investigative resources at peak times and locations where these crimes were taking place. As additional intelligence was received, the MBPD progressively increased the deployment of resources. During this ongoing enforcement initiative in the middle District, several arrests and investigative stops were made for Burglary and Loitering and Prowling. Even though one arrest in particular was made for multiple residential burglaries, it soon became clear that the primary target responsible for the majority of these burglaries was and may still be active.

In an effort to keep residents informed, a tremendous amount of outreach has taken place to partner with the Middle District residents to raise awareness and report any suspicious activity to the Police Department. Neighborhood Resource Officers (NRO's) have met with affected Homeowner Associations and distributed flyers, as well as batch emails, to residents and other concerned persons. Middle District NRO Bruce Songdahl, along with members of the Patrol Command Staff, have met with the Alton Road, Lagorce Pinetree and the Middle North Bay Road Homeowner Associations in addition to the Collins Park Neighborhood Association. At each of these meetings, those in attendance have been made fully aware of this burglary trend, provided with recommended crime prevention techniques in an effort to "target harden" residences, and requested to share the information provided with others in their neighborhoods. Residents at these meetings were also encouraged to take advantage of the security surveys provided by the MBPD's NROs.

Investigative personnel have been working closely with other law enforcement agencies to identify the perpetrator(s) responsible. It is significant to note that there appears to be similar types of residential burglaries occurring in the City of Coral Gables, where the perpetrator(s) may be one in the same. All of the burglaries have been processed by the Crime Scene Squad and evidence of value has been impounded. Latent fingerprints have been lifted

from some of the crime scenes and submitted for comparison with the Automated Fingerprint Information System. In all instances, area canvasses were conducted by either the responding officer(s) or detective(s). In addition, area pawn shops and second hand dealers are being monitored for the stolen property, to compare against any of the property taken from the burglaries in question. As a result of these efforts, strong investigative leads have been developed, which should ultimately lead to the apprehension of the involved perpetrator(s).

The MBPD remains fully committed to these crime interventions and will continue to dedicate all of the necessary resources to this crime trend until those responsible are apprehended.

JMG/CN/MG

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