

BUSINESS CRIME WATCH

BAY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY April 2018 EDITION 3, VOLUME 4

Crime Prevention for Business Owners

EMPLOYEE THEFT & PREVENTION

To prevent employees from committing crimes against your business, take precautions to hire responsible and trustworthy individuals. In order to aid with this judgment, screen applicants using reference checks, background checks, personal character examinations, police reports, and other examinations you might deem necessary. Once an employee is hired, set standards and follow them. Make sure rules of the business are understood and strictly adhered to. Explain and train employees on the crime preventatives and security programs your business already has.

Make sure they can recognize theft and teach them what to do if faced with a robbery. Watch to see if employees follow the standards set. Unannounced inspections or tests will help make sure employees are on their toes and following the rules of your business. Closely monitor employees working directly with money. Require audits from employees who work with invoices, receipts and payroll. Set an example. Show that you are taking every precaution to secure your business and its assets- including your employees. Although security and crime are serious, make sure the atmosphere is positive and focused on integrity.

To prevent theft from both employees and customers, you must also physically protect your business. There are many ways to do this. Install multiple, strong locks. Consider a timed lock system. Along with opening and closing at certain times, time locks also record all openings. Dead bolt locks, padlocks, or multiple locks are also good security accessories. Make sure the business is well-lit, both outside and in. Theft is less likely to happen if the area is clearly visible.

Install a surveillance camera or mirrors. Strategically placed mirrors can help employees and others see all points in the business. Cameras provide a hard copy of evidence if a crime should occur. Remember, your supervision and inspections of employees are still important even with these helpful technologies.

SHOPLIFTING & PREVENTION

Shoplifting is the biggest crime-concern of most small business owners. Loss of merchandise from theft can be devastating to a small business. The shoplifting of small items adds up and can cause businesses to raise prices to cover losses, which lowers their ability to compete. Shoplifters have many faces. From youngsters to the elderly, people from all races, sexes, and salary brackets can be thieves.

There are many different ways shoplifters acquire merchandise. They usually carry large bags, pocketbooks, baby carriages, and other bulky objects that can easily and discretely stow away articles. People sometimes work together to shoplift. For the most part, shoplifters avoid crowded stores or aisles. Unsupervised dressing rooms are an excellent place for shoplifters to exchange or steal merchandise.

The best way to prevent shoplifting is to be prepared. This starts with your employees. Educate and train them about things they can do to prevent shoplifting. In addition, plan your business layout with surveillance, lighting and low displays. By keeping display cases low, your view of the business will not be obstructed. You want to be able to see the entire store well, and make it obvious that surveillance, whether employee or video, is present. Lock cases that contain valuables or merchandise easily lifted. Make sure your customers know that you are aware of their presence. If they feel you might be watching, it will prevent them from stealing

BURGLARY & PREVENTION

Another crime that concerns small business owners is burglary. Breaking and entering can only happen if the store is not properly secured. The harder it is for the intruder to enter, the less amount of time they will have in the store before they are detected and caught. There are many preventative barriers to help stall and/or deter a burglar. When laying out the landscape of the business, make sure to keep tall shrubs, bushes and trees away from entrances or windows.

Make sure your business' doors and locks are strong. Doors can easily be kicked in and locks can be broken or bent. Deadbolt or padlock keys work best to secure doors. Windows can be easily shattered, and if at the correct height, climbed through. Bars or grates on windows can prevent their destruction. Make sure to remove any valuable pieces that are stationed by windows or can be seen through the windows. Also, keep them clear from any obstructions such as furniture or paintings which could hinder the ability to see into or out of the business.

It is important to keep your business well lit, both at night and during the day. A lighted area makes it easier for people to see what is going on around your business. Keeping a light on inside will also help see if anyone is inside after dark. Motion sensor lights and alarms also might be advantageous to have if burglary is a concern.

March Activity:

03/02 – Larceny complaint of a wallet stolen at an east side workout facility. There are suspect leads and the case is under investigation.

03/03 – MDOP of school property on the west side. A window was broken out but entry was not gained. DNA evidence was left at the scene. The case is under investigation.

03/05 – Robbery of an east side gas station. Suspect is described as follows: W/M, 6'2", heavy set, wearing a black puffy hooded jacket. The case is under investigation.

03/06 – Retail fraud complaint at an east side convenience store. A variety of items were stolen and the suspect was apprehended a short distance from the scene by responding officers. The suspect was lodged at the BCJ and was found in possession of drugs.

03/07 – Retail fraud at a south end convenience store. 3 juvenile boys, ages 13-17, mixed race, have been stealing merchandise (candy & snacks).

03/17 – Retail fraud at a west side convenience store. A B/M, 25-35 years old, medium build, approximately 5'10" entered the store and stole a number of 5 hour energy shots by stuffing them in his pants while the clerk was distracted with other customers. The incident was recorded on security video and is under investigation.

03/21 – Retail fraud at a west side bike shop. A W/M, 14-16 years old, thin, 5'7", brown bowl cut hair, stole a bicycle. Suspect fled south and escaped into the woods near Westshore Trailerpark. The suspect was recorded on security video. The case is under investigation.

03/23 – Retail fraud of a west side convenience store. A suspect stole some 5 hour energy drinks. The suspect was identified from security video and was found to work at another nearby store. The case is under investigation.

03/23 – Larceny of merchandise by an employee at an east side convenience store. The employee was caught on security video and confessed to the theft. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

03/24 – Larceny of a women's hand wallet from a west side bar. An unknown suspect took a woman's hand wallet from a table. There was no security video of the incident.

03/27 – MDOP of an east side bank downtown. Unknown suspect(s) threw pieces of concrete through the window. No entry was gained.

Fraudulent \$100 bills have been passed at a number of local area businesses.

There have been a number of larceny from auto's throughout Bay City. An overwhelming majority of these occur do to a failure to lock or properly secure their vehicle. The incidence of these increase as more seasonable weather approaches in the coming months. Please remember to lock your vehicle anytime it is unoccupied. We strongly encourage people to remove items of value from view as well, in particular electronics and purses/handbags.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

During the month of March, the Bay City Department of Public Safety handled the following calls:

- Responded to or self-initiated 1935 law enforcement related incidents
- Made 486 traffic stops
- Wrote 271 reports
- Took 76 traffic crash reports

For more information on what is happening in your neighborhood, go to www.crimemapping.com





Upcoming Community Events

April 21ST- Clean-Up Bay City

This event is a city wide Earth Day clean up and recycling event. From 8:30am – 2pm at Bay City DPW, you can drop off large items in the dumpsters, recycle polystyrene, tires, electronic waste, metal scrap, household goods, building materials, eye glasses and hearing supplies, cell phones, concrete/bricks, shred paper and more. The location is 900 S. Water Street. Free compost will also be located in Vet's Park.

April 28th- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

This event will take place from 10am – 2pm in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center, 501 3rd Street, Bay City. You can anonymously drop off prescription drugs in pill form. We do not accept liquids, inhalers, needles or syringes.



SAVE THE DATE



**Tuesday August 7th
5pm – 8pm**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

This year's event will be held at
1 East Main Street in Uptown Bay City

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW