



SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Steven G. Zagorski
Chief of Police

Dear Summit Residents,

I am writing to you today to address a critical concern within our community: the recent increase in home burglaries. This trend is not only alarming but also a disruption to the sense of security we value in Summit.

The Summit Police Department is taking these incidents very seriously and responding proactively to them. We have already increased our strategic patrols in key areas and are constantly analyzing regional and local patterns and trends to prevent future occurrences. Additionally, we are implementing advanced technology such as surveillance at our borders and license plate readers to identify potential perpetrators in stolen vehicles that will ultimately aid in their swift capture.

As we recognize that this issue extends beyond our city limits, collaborating with neighboring towns that are experiencing similar challenges is another key strategy. By sharing intelligence and resources, including participating in the Union County Prosecutor's Office [Municipal Task Force initiative](#), we aim to create a broader network of deterrence and detection, making it harder for criminals to operate across town lines.

To further strengthen our efforts, we seek your active participation. Here are some specific recommendations for residents to enhance the security of their properties:

Upgrade Locks and Security Systems: Invest in high-quality locks for doors and windows. Consider installing a reputable home security system, ideally doorbell and driveway cameras, and remote monitoring capabilities.

Lighting and Visibility: Ensure that your property is well lit. Motion-sensor lights can be an effective deterrent especially in the driveway and rear of the home. Keep shrubs and trees trimmed to avoid potential hiding spots for burglars.

Secure Valuables: Keep valuables in a safe. Avoid leaving spare keys outside your home.

Community Vigilance: Be aware of and report any suspicious activities in your neighborhood. Share contact information with neighbors on your block. If possible, discuss routines and upcoming schedules, so unusual activities can be spotted more easily.

Sign up for alert notifications: There are several [options](#) to receive alerts and advisory information from Summit Police that include Everbridge Nixle, Smart911 and website notifications. Please consider signing up for all three services to stay safe and informed.

Beginning on March 1, 2024, Summit Police Department will offer free home security assessments. Members of our team are participating in training to enable them to provide property owners with professional, targeted recommendations on safeguarding against burglaries. More information on this program and a home safety assessment checklist can be found on the city website prior to March 1.

The Summit Police Department is committed to doing everything in our power to maintain and uphold the safety and security of our community. Your awareness and cooperation are invaluable in this endeavor; remain vigilant, look out for your neighbors, and engage actively with our [initiatives](#).

Please feel free to contact the SPD for any assistance, especially if you see something suspicious.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Steven Zagorski
Chief of Police

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