

Neighbors,

As you know, several packages that have been delivered to University Park homes have been taken by thieves in the last couple of weeks. This is not a unique situation for our Town as it is happening all over the Washington metropolitan area. Chief Wynnyk and Captain McCully of our Town Police Department and I discussed the problem recently, trying to develop some strategies to solve this problem. The Town Police have increased surveillance and are looking for any indication that someone is following delivery trucks or scanning front doors to see if packages are being left unattended. The University Park Police could use your help to discourage thieves from taking these packages.

Here are some tips we discussed that may help prevent these crimes of opportunity.

1. When you are at home, check your front door frequently for packages. Delivery people tend not to knock and they deliver at seemingly all hours of the day and night. The sooner a package is retrieved the less likely it will be seen and possibly stolen.
2. It is safer to have your packages delivered to your place of work, if possible, so they are not left in view at your front door until you get home.
3. If you have a trusted neighbor who is home most of the day, check with that neighbor to see if you can have your package delivered to his/her house where it is likely to be picked up more quickly.
4. Perhaps some enterprising person who is home most of the day would like to start a service by accepting package deliveries to his/her home for a reasonable fee. (A little extra income for the Holiday Season!)
5. If you see anything suspicious, call 911. If you see someone either in a car, on a bicycle or walking that seems to be following a delivery truck or checking houses for packages, let the police know. Our officers can check it out, perhaps catching a thief or discouraging an attempt to steal packages.

If we are vigilant and take a few precautions, we can stem this crime of opportunity.

Wishing you Happy Holidays,

*Roy*

Roy Alvarez

Council Member, Ward 7

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee Chair