

016th District Press Release

During the first quarter of 2009, the 016th District experienced an increase in the number of residential and garage burglaries. In addition to numerous enforcement strategies implemented in the District, Commander Anthony Riccio directed Community Policing personnel to develop a plan to increase public awareness. The objective was to analyze burglary scenes and provide District residents with information about ways that they can “target harden” their homes.

The survey looked at more than 100 recent burglaries in the District. Community Policing Officers visited each location and re-interviewed the victims. In addition to the survey, Officers analyzed security measures that homeowners had in place at the time of the burglary. Some of the results are listed below.

- **Most burglaries occurred on Mondays and Wednesdays (40%).**
- **Fewest occurred on Saturdays (7%).**
- **In 29% of the burglaries, the door or window was left open and the offender did not have to use tools or force to enter.**
- **None of the homes/garages that were burglarized were equipped with alarm systems.**
- **In cases in which doors were forced or pried open, 92% had wooden doors. Only 8% had steel doors.**
- **Only 9% of the doors that were forced open had “deadbolt” locks. The remaining 91% used less secure “door-knob” type locks.**
- **At homes/garages in which burglaries occurred after dark, only 13% were equipped with outside motion sensor lights.**
- **None of the homes/garages that were burglarized were equipped with a video camera security system, or a “dummy” camera.**
- **22% of the burglaries occurred at homes displaying “Beware of Dog” signs.**

What the survey and property inspections revealed is that burglars are opportunists who target locations that are least secure. Simple and relatively inexpensive precautions by homeowners can drastically reduce the possibility of becoming a burglary victim. Several layers of security can almost insure that burglars will move on to a less secure property.

The 016th District Community Policing Office has a trained specialist that can come to your home and access your level of security. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call Sergeant Terry Mullins @ (312) 742-4521.