SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY

“SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU”
• You are responsible for your own safety.
• General Approach to Safety
  • Reduce opportunities that make you a target.
  • Increase overall awareness of surroundings.
  • Trust your instincts.
  • Prepare your outing with safety in mind.

PREPARE BEFORE YOU DEPART
• Dress comfortably, but professionally.
• Think conservative.
  • Avoid wearing excessive jewelry.
  • Avoid wearing expensive jewelry & accessories.
  • Avoid high heels and open-toed shoes.
  • Avoid carrying large handbags/purses.
  • Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to arrive at your destination.

COMMUNITY SAFETY TIPS
• Carry your purse with the clasp-side inward toward your body.
• Carry your wallet in a front or inside pocket, not in a back pocket.
• Carry as little money or valuables as possible.
• Be aware of people arguing or asking for directions as a means to distract you.

WHEN WALKING
• Use well-lit areas and main streets.
• Avoid alleys and shortcuts.
• Plan your route in advance.
• Travel in groups when possible.
• Walk confidently. Avoid looking like a tourist.
• If you sense you are being followed, head toward a populated area, or step into a UMB building and speak with the security officer.
• Avoid texting & talking on cell phone while walking.
• Don’t carry your phone in plain sight and keep it set to silent or vibrate when you are in a public area.

WHEN DRIVING
• Plan ahead. Know the route to your destination. Have alternate routes in mind.
• Pay attention to your surroundings as you walk to your car.
• Look inside your car before you get in.
• Lock your car doors and keep your windows rolled up.
• Get gas in advance to avoid having to get gas in unfamiliar areas.
• When stopped in traffic maintain distance from the car in front of you so you can easily pass if necessary.
• Keep valuables out of sight. If possible put valuables in the trunk before leaving your home or office.
• Park so you can leave quickly if you have to.
• Scan your surroundings prior to getting out of the car.

IF VICTIMIZED
• Remain calm.
• The most valuable possession you own is your life.
• Stay within yourself.
• Don’t escalate the situation.
• Do not try to follow the assailant.
• Call 911.
• Be ready to provide the following information:
  • The nature of the incident.
  • When and where the incident occurred.
  • Number of persons involved
  • Description, including:
    › Names if known
    › Sex I Race I Age
    › Approximate height
      (It helps to use your height as a comparison)
    › Hair color / style
    › Complexion
    › Distinctive characteristics
      (scars, tattoos, or physical defects)
    › Clothing
      (start with the head - hat, top, pants, shoes)
    › Direction and method of travel
    › Vehicles involved
    › Description of stolen property