

# SECURITY TIPS

## from the **UMB POLICE FORCE**

With the arrival of autumn and the upcoming return to standard time, it is dark later in the morning and earlier in the evening. Here are a few things to keep in mind to stay safe, particularly as you travel to and from the University.

### GENERAL SAFETY

- ▶ Walk in pairs or groups whenever possible, particularly in the evening.
- ▶ Be aware of your surroundings. If a path or area seems unsafe, avoid it; take the long way around.
- ▶ Safe Walk/Safe Ride services from the University Police Force are available; call 410-706-6882 (ext. 6-6882 from a campus phone).
- ▶ If you are in danger or see any dangerous activity call 911.
- ▶ Walk in well-lit places.
- ▶ Do not wear earbuds/headphones or use your phone while walking.
- ▶ If you don't need it; don't bring it.
- ▶ If you feel you are being followed, walk into any UMB building or garage and see the security officer/attendant upon entry.
- ▶ Do not leave personal property unattended.

### CELLPHONE SECURITY

Cellphones have a great deal of street value to thieves. Don't make it easy for them to steal your phone or any personal information you have stored on it.

**Stay off your cellphone in public places.** Cellphones distract you from your surroundings. If you're in a public place and preoccupied with talking or texting, somebody can easily grab the phone and run. Try to make calls before you go into public areas. If you receive an important call while you're out, make it quick. Better yet, call back when you're in a more secure location.

**Password-protect your phone.** Lock your phone using the security lock code or PIN feature, usually found in Settings. Make it more difficult for others to access your personal information in your stolen phone.

**Save your cellphone's serial number,** as well as model and make. Keep the information in a place where you can find

it. Your serial number proves it's yours. The serial number is usually found by opening the battery compartment on your phone. It will start with one of these codes: IMEI, MEID, or ESN.

**Don't store secrets in your phone.** If it's stolen, it's not that difficult for the thief to pull out your private information before clearing the memory and reselling the device. If the information isn't in the phone, the thief can't use it for identity theft.

**Activate the phone's tracking device:** Activate the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking system on your phone and other electronic devices. This will make it possible to locate it electronically. If the device does not have a GPS tracking system, you can buy software that does the same thing. Check with your provider.

### IF YOUR PHONE IS STOLEN

First, find another phone and call 911 as soon as possible. Remember, emergency blue light phones are available in designated areas on campus.

**Contact your cellphone service provider immediately.**

Suspend your wireless service. This will prevent others from using your phone and racking up unauthorized charges. The carrier's main service number should be available on its website; you can also visit one of the company's stores to report the theft. If you have an online cellphone account, you should be able to suspend your service online.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The University Police Force is available to meet with anyone needing additional information. We care about your safety and security. If your team or unit wants a crime prevention session, contact Police Chief Alice Cary at 410-706-6882.