

**TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**District One**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMUNICATION**

News to assist you and your neighbors in making our community a safe place to live

**Crime Prevention (813) 354-6692**

**CPP Marianne Hunsberger**

***Tampa Police Department needs you to help us***  
**PREVENT CAR BREAK-INS**

No neighborhood is immune from car break-ins. It happens in all communities. Most often, car break-ins occur during the early morning hours when the risk of discovery is low. Persons who commit these types of crimes can be juveniles on a dare, or addicts desperate for something to trade or pawn to support their habits.

**Tips:**

- Secure your vehicle safely in the garage OR park your vehicle as close to the residence as possible. If you park on the street, park in an area with good visibility and lighting. If you rent, report lighting/security problems to your landlord or property manager.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle that would tempt somebody to break in. Remove valuables or secure them out of sight in your trunk.
- If your car stereo has a removable faceplate, remove it. Do not leave CDs in the car.
- Lock your car doors. Some thieves go from car to car trying doors. Chances are they will simply move on to the next car. Unlocked vehicles provide places for people to sleep, hide, or engage in drug activity.
- DO NOT confront the suspect. DO NOT compromise your safety. If you are in a car, flashing your high beams or honking your horn is enough to alert him of your presence. People will likely not commit crime when they know someone is watching.
- Develop a telephone or e-mail "tree" of neighbors or tenants wishing to participate in a Neighborhood Watch or Apartment Watch effort. Notify each other of criminal and suspicious activity so all can be aware and alert and take precautions.

**REPORTING:**

**(813) 231-6130** - Report car break-ins (after the fact) to Tampa Police Department. If you rent, also report the incident to the property manager and notify other tenants. They may have seen or heard something.

**9-1-1** for crimes in progress. Be prepared to give description of the person(s), vehicle, and license plate number.

