



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
MAYOR MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU

## New Orleans Police Department News & Information

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

06/20/2013

#### NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

##### Protect Yourself Against Being Carjacked

While there is no guaranteed way to avoid being carjacked, certain precautions can be taken to reduce or minimize the potential.

##### **While Driving Your Vehicle**

- v Plan your route
- v Don't drive in unfamiliar areas, avoid trouble spots
- v Keep your doors locked and windows up
- v Look in the rear view mirror often
- v Observe 180 degrees around you
- v Keep packages, purse, etc. on the vehicle floor rather than on the seat where they are easier to see.
- v Be observant as you approach an area or intersection
- v If a suspicious looking person approaches your vehicle, drive away carefully — even if you must go through a traffic light.
- v Don't "drift off" when stopped — **Stay Alert**
- v If you are driving home, and there is someone walking down the street you don't recognize, drive around the block and come back after that person has left.
- v If bumped from behind, motion for the other driver to follow, drive to the nearest Police/Fire 24 hour station. **Notify the Police**
- v When stopping to use ATM's, choose a well-lighted and highly visible area
- v Keep your vehicle in good working order and with plenty of gas

v When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you, so you can pull away quickly if necessary.

### **If Confronted While Stopped**

- v Don't panic
- v Avoid verbal/physical confrontation
- v If pulled from your car or confronted while in your car, cooperate — move away quickly
- v Walk/run away from the immediate area
- v Call the Police immediately
- v If you have a cellular phone, call for help
- v Give a description of your car and the suspect(s).

### **Option to Consider**

- v Have a plan — do something, just don't sit there
- v When confronted by a suspect(s):
  - v **Drive away with caution** — usually a right turn is safest. If traffic prohibits this, use the sidewalk or yard, etc.
  - v Be extra cautious when someone approaches your car and asks you for information. If you must talk to them, do so with the **window up, the doors locked and ready to drive away** if necessary.
- v **Call the Police immediately.**

### **Getting Out of Your Vehicle**

- v Park in a well-lighted area
- v Park near a main aisle
- v Park in an outside parking lot with an attendant if possible
- v If you suspect something is wrong, don't stop
- v Always park where you have a 360 degree view around you
- v **Be aware of your surroundings** before you get out
- v Use your auto alarm, if you have one, as a personal safety device
- v Carry an additional personal safety device or alarm
- v Roll up your windows before parking
- v **Leave your doors locked** until you have observed your surroundings and are ready to exit your vehicle
- v Take your keys with you and have them ready in your hand

- v Move quickly away from your car
- v At home, make sure the garage door is down before exiting
- v Keep your car in working order at all times

#### **If Confronted Getting Out of Your Vehicle**

- v Avoid verbal/physical confrontations
- v Cooperate — move away quickly
- v Walk/run away from the immediate area
- v **Call the Police immediately**
- v Give the car description
- v Give the suspect description
- v If at all possible, **never** go with the suspect(s)
- v Remember, the primary rule: **“If a gunman wants your car, give it up.”**

#### **Getting Into Your Vehicle**

- v Park in a **well-lighted area** at night
- v **Be aware** of your surroundings (360 degrees)
- v Appear **confident and assertive**
- v Walk with someone to your car (friend, co-workers, escort)
- v Keep a **free hand** when approaching your car
- v Have your **keys ready**
- v Separate your car keys from other keys in case you need to go back to a place of safety.
- v Look for anyone near your car or near you.
- v Check the exterior of your car
- v Check the interior of your car before entering
- v At home, lock car doors before opening the garage door to leave
- v Use your auto alarm, if you have one, as a personal safety device
- v Carry an additional personal safety device or alarm
- v Keep your car in working order at all times (tires, fluids, oil, maintenance, etc.)
- v Never let the gas tank get below half full

### **If Confronted Getting Into Your Vehicle**

- v Avoid any verbal/physical confrontations
- v Cooperate — move away quickly away from your car
- v Walk/run away from the immediate area
- v **Call the Police immediately**
- v Give the car description
- v Give the suspect(s) description

### **Remember**

- v Anyone can be a victim
- v Your safety is your responsibility
- v Have a plan and share it with your passengers
- v If at all possible, never go with the suspect(s)
- v If a gunman wants your car, give it up. It's not worth your life!
- v If or when an incident occurs, only you can make a decision as to what action to take. Every situation is different and must be evaluated accordingly. **Remember your safety is most important.**

Thank you,

### **Sergeant L. J. Smith**

New Orleans Police Department

Commander, Crime Prevention Unit

715 S. Broad Avenue, Office # A- 412

New Orleans, LA 70119

(504) 658-5590 – Office Phone

Sylbrown@nola.gov - Email

### **For Police Service**

**(504) 822-1111 – Crime Stoppers**

**(504) 822-2222 - Non-Emergency**

**911 – Emergency**

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