



Safety Alert
Statement from Chief of Police Ricky C. Tanksley
Feb. 10, 2009

Two early morning incidents since the first of the year underscore the importance of citizens – especially females – taking a few simple steps to make sure they are not the victim of this frightening crime.

On January 8, a woman delivering newspapers at about 5 a.m. in the 1000 block of Pleasant Street had her van hijacked with her inside. She later was released in Chicago. Then on February 9, a woman exiting her residence at about 5 a.m. in the 200 block of North Kenilworth Avenue was confronted by a man as she approached her vehicle. The victim fought off her assailant, who fled the scene.

Investigators do not believe the incidents are related, given the differences in the descriptions of the assailants. However, the events share characteristics that provide a basis for several preventive measures that could keep others from becoming victims of similar crimes.

Here are a few tips:

- Always be aware of your surroundings – especially at night or in the early morning.
- Always travel with the doors locked; never leave an unattended vehicle running and unlocked – even for a moment.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately if you notice anything suspicious, whether it is a person nearby or a vehicle.
- Be aware of anybody who approaches you or your car or is loitering near traffic lights, stop signs, parking areas or alleys.
- Attract the attention of motorists or pedestrians if you think you are in danger. Blow your horn, flash your lights, put on your emergency lights and shout
- Do not enter your garage or a parking area if you believe you are being followed. Drive to the police station or call 9-1-1 on your cell phone.
- Remember, you can always contact the police if you would like an escort.

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