

# Street Robbery Prevention



## **Take Responsibility for Your Personal Safety**

- Stay in well-lit areas.
- Walk near the curb — away from shrubbery and places where someone could be hiding.
- Walk against traffic, so that cars cannot surprise you from behind.
- Keep an arm's length away from strangers.
- If you think someone suspicious is approaching or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place. Trust your Intuition!
- Avoid illegal behaviors, such as buying or using narcotics, which increase the likelihood of being targeted for robbery.

## **Don't Make It Obvious That You're in Unfamiliar Territory**

- Giving the appearance of not paying attention and not being alert is what suspects look for in a victim. (Not surprisingly, many victims are robbed while talking on their cell phones).
- Stay sober enough to take care of yourself. Criminals view impaired persons as easy prey.
- Walk briskly and with confidence.

## **At Night, Avoid Public Parks, Vacant Lots, Alleys and Areas with Excessive Trees and Bushes**

- Know which stores and other public places are open along your route.
- Don't hesitate to run back to where you came from to get help.
- Look for anyone "hanging around" your car or your path to your car.
- Have your keys in your hand and be ready to open the car door.
- Keeping cash in a separate money clip or pouch will allow you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards, identification, and personal papers.
- **RELEASE THE PURSE!** Do not risk personal injury.
- Obey the robber's instructions.
- Make a mental note of the robber's appearance, i.e., height, weight, hair color/style, clothing, etc.
- If possible, take down the vehicle license plate number, a description of the vehicle, and the direction the robber is fleeing.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately!



**St Louis Metropolitan Police  
Department**