



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Media Advisory WPD and Public Works Team Up to Protect Shoppers

The Wichita Police Department (WPD) and Public Works & Utilities are teaming up to protect shoppers over the holiday season.

The WPD and Public Works will place portable traffic message signs, often seen in construction zones, throughout Wichita shopping areas to remind shoppers of three simple steps that can help protect them from car break-in thefts.

1. Hide your items;
2. Take your keys; and
3. Lock your vehicle.

These quick, simple and easy-to-remember steps are important year round and especially during the holiday shopping season. Taking a few minutes to do these steps can help you avoid the pain, loss and regrets of theft.

Beginning today, the signs will be placed near Towne East and Towne West malls. Throughout December, the signs will be moved to other busy shopping areas.

Here are some additional proactive steps:

- Remove all indications of anything valuable in your vehicle (cords, electronics, boxes, bags, purses, wallets, ID badges, gym bags, K-Tags, garage door openers, etc.);
- Lock all doors on your vehicle;
- If you have a car alarm, activate it; and
- Roll up all vehicle windows.

Also, during the holidays, shoppers like to lock shopping bags or purses in their trunk. WPD recommends you survey the parking lot and be aware of anyone watching you or acting suspicious. Most vehicles have a trunk release located inside the front door area that criminals can access if they are able to enter.

Remember, crime prevention is everyone's business.