



# Renton Police Department

## Business Watch News

February 2008

### Disabled Parking Spaces on Business Property



Washington State law requires businesses to establish and maintain parking spaces for persons with disabilities. Per R.C.W. 46.61.581, "A parking space or stall for a person with a disability shall be indicated by a vertical sign with the international symbol of access, whose colors are white on a blue background, described under R.C.W. 70.92.120."

Are the disabled parking spaces at your business properly marked? Police Volunteers are currently checking Renton businesses to ensure proper signage for disabled parking spaces. A properly marked stall must have a vertical sign with the international symbol of

access on it. Businesses with improperly marked disabled parking spaces will be contacted by the Police Department.

**Failure of the person owning or controlling the property where required parking spaces are located to erect and maintain the sign is a Class 2 Civil Infraction under R.C.W. 7.80 for each parking space that should be so designated.** Failing to ensure that disabled parking spaces are not *blocked or made inaccessible* is also a Class 2 Civil Infraction. The maximum penalty and the default amount for a Class 2 Civil Infraction shall be one-hundred twenty-five dollars, not including statutory assessments.



### Crime Resistant Multi-Housing Program

The next 12-hour Residential Rental Property Management Training class will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25 and 26. This intensive class covers topics such as: Preparing the Property, Applicant Screening, Rental Agreements, Working With the Police, Promoting Community, Warning Signs of Drug and Gang Activity, If you Discover a Clandestine Lab, Crisis Resolution (Eviction), The Section 8 Program, Registered Sex Offenders and Domestic Violence on Rental Property.



Who should attend? Apartment managers, leasing agents, maintenance staff, management company personnel, owners of rental properties, real estate agents and brokers working with rentals, and anyone interested in managing or owning rental property.

The cost of the class is \$45 for registrations prior to March 13, and \$55 for registration on or after March 14. Real estate agents can receive 12 clock hours towards annual requirements. This class is the first part of a three-level Rental Property Certification course. Properties and managers who pass all three levels of the program are eligible to be endorsed to the public by the Renton Police Department. The class will be held at Highline Community College. For more information or to register, contact Highline Community College, 206-870-3785. The class includes a Crime Free Multi-Housing Manual, useful management information, guest speakers who are experts in their field, coffee and snacks during breaks, and lunch on Tuesday.

## Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Month of January 2008

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY****LOSS**

800 block Edmonds Ave NE	A delivery driver attempted to deliver an order to a person who did not give their name. He asked around trying to locate the customer and then called the number listed on the order. The number was answered by a male who said he decided to pick up the order himself. When the driver exited the building he was attacked from behind by four subjects who stole the delivery and attempted to take his wallet and cell phone. The suspects fled in a vehicle, and the victim was unable to provide significant description of the suspects or the car.	\$33
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**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:****LOSS**

3200 block NE Sunset Blvd	Employees arrived to find a large window broken and an electric guitar missing from the business. A review of surveillance tapes showed a male subject walking back and forth in front of the building, breaking the window, and grabbing the electric guitar, which was near the window. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Display items of value away from windows, where they can be easily reached by thieves.</i>	\$90
500 block S 12th St	Entry to the business was gained by breaking a bay door window. Suspect/s stole cash from the cash register and a laptop computer from a desk. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Don't leave cash in the cash register during non-business hours. Cash on-hand should be stored in a secured, less obvious location.</i>	\$1,100
2400 block Jones Ave S	Officers responded to a business alarm with multiple trips to find a broken window. Two suspects were observed attempting to conceal themselves outside the building. A foot pursuit and K9 track ensued, and both subjects were booked for Felony Investigation of Burglary. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: An application of Security Film can increase the strength of glass up to three hundred percent, greatly increasing the amount of time and effort a criminal must spend to gain entry by breaking a window or glass door.</i>	\$1,000 (recovered)
2200 block Lind Ave SW	Unknown suspect/s gained entry to a construction site storage container by cutting the padlocks, and stole tools, fuel, four rolls of copper wire, and other assorted items. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Construction sites are frequently targeted by criminals. Storage containers with recessed locks are more difficult to break into than padlocked containers. Items that are likely to be targeted, such as copper wire, should be delivered the day of installation to prevent theft by the roll.</i>	\$1,934
1200 block Bronson Way N	Officers responded to a business alarm and found an open door; the door lock had been removed and pieces of it were on the ground. The call from the alarm company was received nine minutes after the alarm was tripped. No suspects were located inside the building. The business manager arrived and said that someone had gone through drawers and cabinets, but nothing appeared to be missing. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: How long does it take your alarm company to call in an alarm? Clarify their procedures and your expectations.</i>	nothing
900 block Houser Way N	An employee arriving for work noticed a roll-up door open several inches. He was able to lift the door open and discovered tools had been stolen from a storage area. The lock to the storage area had been cut with bolt cutters, and the suspect used a wheelbarrow and hand truck belonging to the business to transport the tools from the storage area to the door. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Tools and supplies conveniently located for your employees—wheelbarrows, hand trucks, ladders, bolt cutters—are also conveniently located for crooks, who will use them to steal your property. These types of items should be removed or secured to prevent their ease of use by criminals.</i>	\$10,137
200 block S 3rd St	Employees observed the suspect inside the store before the business was open for the day. The suspect had DVDs in hand and a bag full of merchandise that he claimed came from a different location. Entry to the business was gained by pulling open the automatic (electric) doors. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Doors should be locked during non-business hours.</i>	\$200

## Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Month of January 2008 (Continued)

*Auto Thefts: There were 45 cars reported stolen in Renton during the month of January 2008.*

*Auto Recoveries: Eleven vehicles that were stolen outside the City were recovered in Renton during January 2008.*

### **OTHER CRIMES OF INTEREST OCCURRING ON BUSINESS PROPERTY**

200 block SW 43rd St	A male suspect attempted to purchase a small item with a \$500 American Express traveler's check. He got upset when the employee told him they wouldn't be able to provide change. The employee told him they could provide change if he spent closer to \$500. The suspect "didn't seem to mind" and proceeded to select other items, bringing the total to \$499. He provided identification and left with the items. The check was fraudulent as determined by an improper watermark, crooked seal, thick paper, incorrect coloring, and a call to American Express.
5300 block NE 4th St	A customer purchased merchandise with a \$20 bill and asked for change for a second \$20 bill. She used her "frequent customer" card during the purchase. The bills were later found to be counterfeit as determined by their smaller than normal size, lack of hologram, and identical serial number on both bills. Using the frequent customer card information, the officer was able to create a photo montage. The suspect was positively identified by business employees and was arrested and charged with Felony Forgery.
2700 block NE Sunset Blvd	Officers responded to a possible forgery in progress. The suspect presented a \$500 American Express traveler's check for cashing, and American Express confirmed the check was fraudulent. The suspect, who is developmentally disabled, was very cooperative. He had responded to an online job advertisement and said this is the second time he's been paid by the same person/company to cash traveler's checks. The traveler's check in this case was not an obvious forgery. The suspect was released at the scene.
3000 block NE Sunset Blvd	An employee called 9-1-1 to report a regular customer had made a purchase with a counterfeit \$10 bill. The employee provided a description of the suspect and the license plate of the vehicle. With this information the officer was able to create a photo montage and the employee was able to positively identify the suspect. The Secret Service was contacted. They confirmed the bill as counterfeit and advised they have taken a number of reports regarding counterfeit \$10 bills in our area.
300 block Sunset Blvd N	Victim contacted the business to advise them his stolen credit card had been used at the business to make a \$3,400 purchase. The business procedure is to cross check the credit card with the identification provided by the customer, but the employee who made the sale did not follow the procedure.

### Business Security Surveys



Are you interested in reducing crime on your business property? The Crime Prevention Unit offers free security surveys to Renton businesses. A police department crime prevention specialist will come to your business to look over your locks, windows, and alarm system and make recommendations that will enhance the security of your business. For more information or to schedule a security survey, please call 425-430-7520.

### Crime Prevention Classes

The Renton Police Department offers free training classes to Renton businesses and their employees. Topics can include Robbery Prevention, Personal Safety, Violence in the Workplace, Preventing Identity Theft, Fraud Prevention, and other crime prevention subjects. To schedule a class for your employees, please call 425-430-7520.



**RENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**Business Emergency Contact Information Update**

**CITY HALL PHONE NUMBERS**



Have you updated the emergency contact information for your business? In the event of a fire, burglary or other emergency involving your business, the 9-1-1 dispatch center needs to know whom to contact. Your designated emergency contact person(s) would be contacted in the event of a fire, if your building was burglarized and officers were unable to lock it up, or other similar emergency situations. The information will not be sold or shared and will be accessed exclusively by emergency personnel as needed for police or fire purposes. ***If you have already sent in a form, thank you!*** Emergency personnel will be able to contact you in the event of an emergency. If you have not submitted emergency contact information for your business, the form can be downloaded from the City website at [www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov) or request one by calling the Crime Prevention Unit at 425-430-7520.



Information Desk	430-6400
Economic Development	430-6575
Fire Prevention	430-7000
Business Watch	430-7520
Block Watch	430-7521
Human Services	430-6650
City Clerk	430-6510
Utility Systems	430-7234
Police Department	430-7500
Code Enforcement	430-7269