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A Message from Police Chief, Brian Sturgill

With the upcoming holiday season many residents will be doing their holiday shopping online. While a convenient way to shop, the associated home deliveries create an opportunity for thieves.

"Porch Theft" can be prevented through a combination of simple delivery adjustments, community cooperation, and smart home technology. The key strategy is to ensure packages are not left unattended and are out of sight from the street. Please remember the following tips to protect your packages.

Delivery Management

- Track your packages: Use carrier apps and websites to monitor the status of your deliveries in real time and retrieve them as soon as they arrive.
- Schedule deliveries: If possible, arrange deliveries for a time when you know you will be home.
- Require a signature: For valuable items, opt for a signature upon delivery to ensure the package is handed directly to you or another authorized recipient.
- Provide specific instructions: Use the delivery notes feature to ask drivers to place the package in a less visible spot, such as behind a large planter, a side gate, or a back door.

Ship To Alternate Secure Locations

- Workplace: If your employer allows, have packages delivered to your office.
- Trusted person: Ask a neighbor, friend, or family member who is home during the day to accept deliveries for you.
- Carrier pickup points: Utilize services from FedEx, UPS, and Amazon (such as Amazon Lockers) that hold packages at secure, local facilities (e.g., grocery stores, post offices, or carrier stores) for you to pick up at your convenience.
- P.O. box: Consider renting a post office box for a secure receiving location for all mail and small parcels.

Home Security Solutions

- Install a security camera/video doorbell: Visible security cameras or video doorbells act as a strong deterrent and provide evidence if theft occurs. Some advanced cameras offer AI-powered motion detection that notifies you specifically when a package has arrived or is moved.
- Use a lockable package box: Invest in a secure, lockable container that can be anchored to your porch for delivery drivers to place packages inside.
- Install motion-activated lighting: Bright, motion-sensor lights can startle potential thieves and draw attention to your porch.
- Leverage smart home technology: Services like Amazon Key allow a delivery driver to securely place packages inside your garage or home using a smart lock and camera system.

Community Involvement

- Neighbor's helping neighbors: Coordinate with neighbors through community apps or groups to keep an eye on each other's deliveries and report suspicious activity to the local authorities.

The entire staff of the
Cuyahoga Heights Police Department
would like to wish all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Safe and Happy New Year!!!!