

February 15, 2016

## Preventing Neighborhood Crime – Don't Mess with Shavano Park

The City of Shavano Park considers community policing and preventing neighborhood crime as one of our most important tasks. As City Manager, I work closely with the Police Chief and I invest a lot of time and effort in this task.

We constantly review the crime statistics and look for trends. In our review of 2014 data, most residential burglaries occurred as single incidents (often homes entered through the back yard during the day), while most vehicle burglaries occurred in the commercial districts.

In 2015, the city experienced fewer traditional home entries, but more burglaries of residential vehicles, sheds, and garages. As a new trend, there were six occasions where multiple vehicle and shed burglaries occurred on the same night. In most cases, every residential burglary, the vehicle, shed, or garage was unlocked.

That's the bad news. The good news is that in 2015, the Shavano Park Police Department twice apprehended suspected thieves in residential neighborhoods in the early morning (between 4-6 am), and evidence indicates that on four occasions that the thieves were disrupted while the burglaries were in progress (stolen items were dropped, discarded or stacked).

In January 2016, we had two nights of multiple vehicle break-ins (and again almost every vehicle was unlocked). The good news is that on the second night, our police again apprehended the thieves during the crime.

Our police are especially focused on preventing crime and catching thieves in our residential areas. It is a hard task because the thieves are so good at it and they break-in all across San Antonio. We will continue to take an aggressive stance in preventing crime. To succeed in *prevention*, we must gain a reputation across the town for tough policing and a difficulty in committing crimes.

You can help us build upon this reputation by:

- Locking your vehicles, sheds, garages, and homes (let's not make it easy to commit a crime)
- Maintaining vigilance by calling 911 when you see suspicious activity (bad guys who are questioned by police before they commit a crime are likely to leave and go somewhere else)

Please help me build on the reputation of "Don't Mess with Shavano Park!"

**Bill Hill**  
**City Manager**