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For Immediate Release

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Residential Burglaries Up; Vigilance, Caution Urged

Beverly Hills, CA – The entire Westside of Los Angeles has seen an increase in residential burglaries over the past few months. These crimes usually occur during the day and early evening while residents are away.

This is a great time to observe your neighborhood, get to know your neighbors and modernize your security and lighting – particularly if your home borders an alley or is close to a major thoroughfare – such as Sunset, Wilshire or Olympic boulevards.

EVALUATE YOUR HOME SECURITY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A BURGLAR!

Is your home easily accessed from your side yard or unlocked gates?

- How easy is it to get to the back yard or a window without observation?
- Are those privacy bushes/fences providing a hiding place?
- Do you have signage letting people know they are under surveillance? (Even if they actually aren't)
- Does your home have sufficient lighting? Sensor lights will turn on the moment someone steps onto your property.

Remember, camera systems are available that will alert your smart phone immediately whenever anyone is on your property, and provide surveillance footage.

BE VIGILANT AND MINDFUL OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!

Look at the cars parked on your street every time you leave your home. Are you familiar with your neighbor's cars? Is anyone sitting in a parked car, or parked in your neighbor's driveway? Do you see a rental car? (Check license plate frame and/or bar code stickers

in the windows) Rental cars are commonly used by burglars to 'fit in' to a neighborhood. If you see an unfamiliar car, write down the license plate number and description. When you "SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING". If you see a crime in progress, call 911 immediately! If you see suspicious activity, call the Beverly Hills Police Department at our non-emergency number 310.550.4951.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS!

Most importantly, do you know your neighbors and do they know you? You and your neighbors can look out for one another: Tell each other when you will be away, and who should be at the home, and who should not!

Have you taught your children and home staff what to do and what not to do? Is there a regular routine around the house, closing and locking windows and doors when leave — even if it's just a quick trip to the market?

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION:

- If you see a crime in progress, call 911 immediately.
- Lock your windows and doors every time you leave home.
- Turn on your alarm/security camera system every time you leave home. (False alarm fees will be evaluated case-by-case and may be dismissed. For more information to go www.beverlyhills.org/falsealarms.)
- If your alarm is broken, get it fixed.
- If your alarm is outdated, get it updated with security cameras.
- If your neighbor's alarm is activated, look out the window and be a good witness.
- Report people that you believe are suspicious.
- Be a good witness by recalling basic information. Police dispatchers will ask for a description including race, clothing, and vehicle description. Even if all you see is a "light-colored, four-door car" it gives officers something to look for.
- If you have staff at home, be sure they know what to do in an emergency.
- If you think you should call the police, do not hesitate. You ARE NOT bothering us.

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