

2nd Quarter 2019

Crime Prevention Business Watch



Springfield POLICE

NEXT ISSUE ARTICLES

Trespassing

How is trespassing defined by local ordinance?

Ordinance 078-187 states: Prohibited congregations; lingering outside vehicle. It shall be unlawful for persons to intentionally congregate upon the grounds or within the buildings of a commercial establishment or upon public ways immediately adjacent thereto so as to block the aisles, doorways or other passageways into, out of or through the grounds or buildings of such commercial establishment. No person shall sit on the top, roof, hood, fender or windows of a motor vehicle, and no persons shall congregate in crowds of three or more outside vehicles, on business premises when such persons are not transacting business on the premises. Presumption of intent to congregate unlawfully. If any group of persons shall be congregated so as to block the aisles, doorways or other passageways into, out of or through such grounds or buildings and they shall be ordered by the manager or other person in charge of such commercial establishment to move on and they shall fail or refuse to do so, it shall be prima facie proof of their intent to unlawfully congregate under the provisions of this section.

Sleeping or resting on premises. No person shall sleep or rest in any area of a business or

commercial establishment unless such area is designated for sleeping or resting, except with consent of the owner or proprietor of such premises. Nothing in this subsection shall apply to the regulation of motor vehicles on business premises.

How can the ordinance be enforced?

Businesses can call 911 about an unwanted subject who is on the premise. The subject must be informed they are not wanted at the location, and advised to leave. If the subject leaves the premise and does not return, then the issue is solved. However, if the subject refuses to leave or returns to the location, then the business/employee can pursue charges for trespassing. Ultimately there must be a victim (employee or owner), who is willing to pursue the charges. If there is no willing victim, then officers are unable to remove the subject for trespassing.

What happens if you pursue charges?

If you decide to pursue charges then the subject may be issued a citation, arrested, or you may be referred to the Municipal Prosecutor's Office. If you are referred, then you simply call the office to let them know you

FORGERY

Forgery

How can you tell if a check has been forged or altered?

The FBI estimates that losses from check fraud total \$18.7 billion annually.



Counterfeit Bills

Can you spot a counterfeit bill?

In 2015 nearly 70% of the \$78 million counterfeit currency passed in the U.S. was made using digital printing technologies.

Trespassing Cont.

still wish to pursue charges. Depending on the situation the responding officer will decide the most appropriate option.

Letter of Enforcement

A letter of enforcement allows officers to enforce the No Trespassing without having to contact an employee. This is useful during non-business hours and overnight. Signage like the one shown must be displayed for the Letter to be enforced. The letter of enforcement can be obtained at either police department or online.



search the interior of the premise prior to others entering to start the business day. At closing, make sure there are no customers or unwanted subjects inside prior to locking the doors.

Robbery Prevention

Armed robbery is one of the most serious and potentially dangerous crimes committed in the United States. A robber commits a holdup because he or she believes that the profit will be worth the risk. By decreasing the possible profit and increasing the risk of apprehension, potential victims can reduce the chance of becoming a target. Personal safety is always the most important consideration when planning how to react to an armed robbery.

Opening and Closing Procedures

Security should be a high training priority for all employees. Having at least two employees present for opening and closing time decreases the likelihood that a criminal will view the location as an easier target. Always inspect the business exterior for forcible entry prior to entering. One employee should

Cash Protection System

Keep the minimum of easily accessible cash on hand, both in the cash drawer and in the safe. The safe should only be accessed when necessary, and should be secure at all other times. Employees should not count large amounts of cash in areas visible to the public or other employees. Caution should be exercised when making bank deposits. Good practices include, making deposits during daylight hours with more than one person, vary the route taken to the bank and the time of day, and varying the route and time of day. The bank bag should be hidden in another bag, and no stops should be made along the way. The vehicle and personnel doing the deposit should also be varied.

Physical Security Measures

Maintain a well-lighted interior and exterior that are visible from the street. Place physical barriers between employees and customers. Mark the doorway to identify the



height of the robber. Security measures that permit the employee to have a complete view of their surroundings such as convex mirrors, an elevated vantage point, and placement of the employee / customer service and cash register area so that it is clearly visible outside the retail establishment serve as deterrents.

For secure areas use doors that lock automatically on closing. Have prominently displayed surveillance camera equipment. Use a dual key, drop or delay-action time-lock safe. Consider a silent alarm system with a hold button. Keep shrubbery and trees, which a criminal could use to hide, cut back and well maintained. Vary lunch hours and breaks so several employees are always visible.

Employees should be trained to watch for and report suspicious actions of people inside and immediately outside the premises. Don't hesitate to call the police when worried about a potential risk. Give customers a friendly greeting and try to look them in the eye when they enter the business. Require employees to ask for identification from workers, repair people, guards, etc. before entering secured areas. Have the counter or work area cleaned on a regular basis to remove old fingerprints. Publicize the fact that the business uses good cash protection techniques and good protection equipment.



If you are interested in joining the Springfield Police Department's Business Watch and would like more information, please call 417-874-2113 or visit www.springfieldmo.gov/spd.