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## TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS

May 15th, 2014

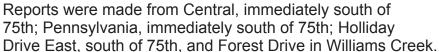
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## Public Safety Notice

Be Alert!

Early Wednesday morning, between 6:00am and 6:30am, there were a series of thefts in the Town of Meridian Hills and surrounding neighborhoods. They involved unlocked vehicles parked outside, as well as unlocked service doors to garages.





In all cases, nothing of significant value was reported stolen. Law enforcement officers reviewing these incidents believe the objective of these thieves was to steal items from garages and cars.

In one incident, the suspect set off an alarm upon entering an unlocked service door to a garage. The homeowner opened the door and observed a male in the garage. The suspect broke a window in the garage in his attempt to flee. Upon later investigation, IMPD found a knife on the ground which was likely carried by the suspect. Contrary to some emails that are circulating, the suspect did not challenge the victim with the knife, and there is no evidence that it was used to "jimmie" the door, or that the suspect was attempting to enter the house." The knife was apparently dropped as the suspect fled.

Unfortunately, I was one of the victims. My kids left my bike outside leaning on our garage door overnight, and in the morning it was gone. After the incidents last fall, we installed some security cameras. When we reviewed the video, we saw what appeared to be a white male in his 30's/40's walk around my car, look in the windows and try the doors. He spotted my bike nearby and made off with it down the driveway. (If anyone sees an old men's red 18" Trek mountain bike, let me know!)

These incidents are reminders that we all need to be vigilent. Criminals look for the easy target. They left my car alone because it was locked and had nothing in it. But

they took my bike because it was left outside. Please don't leave valuables outside or in your car, and keep your car, shed, garage and house doors locked. Install motion detector lights, and if you have an alarm, please use it.

Most importantly, please call **9-1-1** to report any suspicious vehicles or behavior when it happens. Trust your instinct and call immediately. Reports of suspicious vehicles or people could prevent a crime. Additionally, please call the non-emergency police number 327-3811 to report an incident after it happens. It's important to report *every* incident so our police can study the calls and adjust their patrols.

At this time, no other suspect information is available.

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