Holiday Safety Tips

As the holidays approach, people find themselves more vulnerable to becoming a victim of a crime. Unfortunately, not everyone out there has a peace-on-earth-goodwill-toward-men-and-women attitude at this time of year. There are criminals who use the holidays to target victims distracted by the busy season. Below are a few things that you can do to help protect yourself from becoming a victim:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, don’t go by yourself.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- If possible, do not carry a purse or wallet.
- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse, especially in crowded shopping areas, at bus stops and in train stations.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have an unobstructed view and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

Protect your Electronic Devices

A favorite target for thieves is cell phones. The tips below will help reduce the chance of being a victim of cell phone theft:

- Replace the popular white iPhone and iPod headphones with a pair of old unidentifiable ones. Using the white headphones while out in the public advertises that somewhere on your person you are carrying an item worth over $300.
- Do not leave phones unattended in public places.
- Do not leave phones on or in your desk at work when you are not around.
- Wear your electronic devices inside your clothing so that they cannot be easily snatched.
- Be wise about where you choose to use your device.
- Always add a password to your device to prevent unauthorized removal of Apps.
- Check the Public Safety website for Apps to help protect your cell phone.

Safe Haven Program

The Department of Public Safety has partnered with several businesses on Burnside Avenue to provide safe havens for members of the BCC community. If a member of the BCC community feels unsafe, they can enter any of the participating businesses to seek help. For more information on the program and the participating locations, please go to the Public Safety website.

Happy Holidays from Bronx Community College Department of Public Safety