

Hello Neighborhood Watch chairpersons,

I wanted to share an incident that happened recently just before dark near Nebraska Ave. and U.S. Hwy 19. An elderly woman had just left the bank from making an ATM withdraw. While at a stop sign, she was lightly tapped from behind by another car. She exited her vehicle to inspect the damage and to tell the other driver she was alright.

She returned to car and as she sat down the other driver approached with his face covered, demanding her purse and money she had withdrawn. Her door was still unlocked and a brief struggle ensued as the robber took the purse from the driver and pulled the woman from the car. The woman driver luckily only suffered some minor injuries during the attack. The robber returned to his car and sped away.

Fortunately, situations like this is very rare, but they can happen. **Please don't resist the demands of a robber as long as he doesn't want you to go with him.** Cash and personal property can be replaced or repaired, but personal injuries can be serious or even deadly. I send this out to as a reminder to stay vigilant about your safety and know that your actions, such as withdrawing cash, could be monitored by criminals wanting to take advantage of you.

These situations are always sudden and unexpected, but **try to remain calm and be a good witness.** You becoming combative can often escalate the criminals aggression. Criminals committing these types of crimes are already pumped with adrenaline before they even make contact and they can quickly become violent or "trigger happy" with very little provocation. If all they want is your money or car, let them have it and it can be replaced..... but you can't be replaced.

Take a moment and do any inventory of what you currently carry on your person. Do you need all of it? Please don't carry your social security card with you regularly. If it is lost or stolen it can be very valuable to an identity thief. Do you carry credit cards you rarely use in your everyday wallet or purse? Please consider carrying only what you use daily in your wallet and avoid unnecessary cards, extra cash and personal information.

"Safety First" is "Safety Always." ~Charles M. Hayes Better a thousand times careful than once dead.

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