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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Chief shares shopping safety and security tips

LITTLE ELM (November 20, 2015) The season for shopping is upon us, and as we rush from store to store, looking for the best deal, we may become lax in our safety and security, says Police Chief Rodney Harrison.

“It’s not surprising, unfortunately, that robberies and thefts increase this time of year,” he said. “Being vigilant of our surroundings is always a good policy, but especially from now until Christmas.”

To help Little Elm shoppers become more aware of how they can avoid being victimized, the Crime Prevention section has put together some tips to bear in mind.

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Always set your burglar alarm.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded areas.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them on top of the car to open the door.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

“Little Elm is a very safe community, but there are people who travel from place to place, looking for opportunities to commit crimes,” he said. “Taking the time to think about where you are, what and who is around you, and what to do in case of an emergency can go far in keep you and your belongings safe.”

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.