

# CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN



## **TECHNIQUES TO PREVENT DISTRACTION OR PICKPOCKET THEFT**

- Use handbags or purses that have a zipper or locking flap. Keep the zipper or locking flap closed when not using your handbag and carry it close to your body.
- Carry wallets inside your coat pocket or front pants pocket. Never carry your wallet in your rear pants pocket without a chain or button pocket to secure it.
- Beware of loud arguments and commotions in crowded areas. Thieves may stage these incidents to distract you while they pick your pocket or steal from you.
- If you are unnecessarily bumped or crowded, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible and check your valuables.
- If you are pick pocketed, alert everyone you can in the immediate area and call 9-1-1.
- Avoid crowding in the area of a bus, cab, or revolving doors when entering and exiting. Crowded areas are a desired target for thieves due to the congestion and confusion.
- Be on guard if a stranger tries to point something out to you or distract you in any way.
- Be careful while banking at an ATM. Pickpockets will try to distract you from what you're doing so you'll lower your guard.

Need more information? Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 772-871-5303.  
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office  
*"Raising the Standard...Through Community Partnerships"*