



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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This newsletter is a publication by the South Pasadena Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit. Officer Richard Lee
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License Plate and Registration Tab Thefts

For the past several months, we have continued to see thefts of license plates and registration tabs. Officers have also recently made several arrests for having false registration tabs on vehicles.

Often people will not even know that one, or both, of their license plates are missing and when they do, they do not report it.

One of the main reasons why license plates are stolen is to put them on stolen cars, or their own car to commit a crime.

Registration sticker tabs are also stolen to avoid paying the yearly registration fees.

Even if one license plate is stolen, or missing, report it immediately to a police department and DMV. DMV will take your other license plate and issue you a whole new license plate.

Remember, California Vehicle Code 5200, requires both front and rear license plates to be mounted, within a certain height.

Here are some other helpful tips to remember:

- **Make sure your license plates are securely attached.**
- **Consider using non-reversible screws to mount your license plates.**

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- *Periodically, check your vehicle to make sure both license plates are mounted along with your registration tabs.*
- *To prevent your registration sticker tab from being stolen use a razorblade, or sharp knife, and make two diagonal cuts across the sticker tab, as shown:*



This makes it difficult for thieves to remove your registration tab intact.

- **Clear plastic lenses are *ILLEGAL* on license plates. However, clear plastic lenses that ONLY cover the year and month of registration tabs are legal, as long as the lens does not cover the license plate number.**
- **Be aware of people loitering near the rear of vehicles.**

The Crime Prevention Unit offers these **FREE** services

- Engravers to mark your property "Community Opportunity for Property Security Program."
- Home Inspection Surveys.
- Email alerts of crime bulletins and weekly crime summary.

If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch Group or receive future copies of this newsletter, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit.

Graffiti

The mere presence of graffiti around town can increase residents' fear about safety. If not cleaned up quickly, it can signal to criminals that residents do not care about their neighborhood.

It is believed that only 10% of graffiti is actually gang related, most of which are messages to rival gangs. The majority of graffiti is done by "Taggers."

"Taggers," are usually young kids from 12-17 years, who like to display their initials, nicknames or "artworks" to all. Taggers graffiti as many places as possible to impress their peers.

The first step in combating graffiti is to clean it up as quickly as possible to help deny the vandal the chance to display their work.

The second step is to report it to the police department. If you clean up the graffiti prior to police arrival, consider taking a photo of it and give it to the officer.

To help fight graffiti, you can call the "South Pasadena Graffiti Hotline" at 626-403-7249. Reports can be made 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week. This is a **FREE** service to remove graffiti from public and private property, however a release form must be signed prior to clean-up on private property.

Crime Statistic Map

To know where crime is occurring in South Pasadena, look at the monthly Crime Statistic Map on the back of this page.