



# Community Alert

## Attn: Businesses in Area Three

### BEWARE of Pickpockets

Date: April 7, 2008

The Chicago Police Department is investigating numerous crimes of pickpocketing. Many of these crimes are occurring in elevators and crowded retail establishments, as well as grocery stores, coffee shops, taverns and restaurants. The offenders have been described as male and female African Americans who often work in male/female teams. They bump into someone "politely" and, in the process, remove a wallet from a pocket or purse without the victim's awareness. They also target customers who leave their purses in a grocery cart, on the floor of an establishment or the back of a chair or bar stool. Victims do not realize their property has been taken until well after the crime has occurred.



Once the victim's property is stolen, the thieves have the ability to quickly manufacture false identification to match the name on the stolen credit cards and make unauthorized credit card purchases with these stolen credit cards.

Leave your Social Security card, passport, and birth certificate at home in a secure place and carry only the cash or credit cards you expect to use.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- *Warn customers about leaving their property/purses unattended.*
- *Ask employees to be vigilant and alert customers of unsecured property.*
- *Retain any and all surveillance video for crimes that have occurred in your business.*
- *Contact police to report any suspicious persons suspected of committing these crimes.*

Area Three Robbery/Burglary/Theft  
312-744-8263