A Thanksgiving Message from Police Commissioner William Gross

Dear Students,

Most of you will be leaving shortly to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Whether you are traveling near, or far, the majority of you will be leaving your living spaces vacant and unattended for a period of time. I would like to take this opportunity, as I often do, to offer a few safety tips and reminders to help keep your living spaces and personal possessions protected during your absence.

Some preventative measures we recommend doing before leaving are:

- Secure your housing units when you leave and lock all doors and windows; this includes side doors and basements.
- If you have air conditioners, please remove them from the windows, especially if the windows lead to a fire escape. If they cannot be removed, make sure they are securely fastened.
- Be sure that the locks on all doors and windows are in working order. Contact your management company or landlord if they are not.
- Install motion censored or timed lighting in and outside of your residence. This will create the illusion that someone is home.
- Request to put a hold on any mail delivery via the U.S. Post until you return. Large piles of mail will often alert possible intruders that the residence is unoccupied.
- If possible, ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on things during your time away. Conversely, if you are going to be staying in the city, keep an eye on your neighborhood and call 9-1-1 if you see anything suspicious.

If you plan on staying in the city during break, please keep in mind that the Boston Police Department will be monitoring the neighborhoods for loud and underage parties. Don’t forget that your homes are in neighborhoods where people live and work.

I hope this information is helpful. Please visit www.BPDNews.com for more information and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

On behalf of the Boston Police Department, Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

William G. Gross
Police Commissioner