

# WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JEFFREY SPAULDING  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

November 29, 2017

### WESTMINSTER POLICE, CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE CONDUCT JOINT PATROLS TO REDUCE HOLIDAY CRIME

Once again this year, the Westminster Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police are collaborating on a joint effort to reduce crime in commercial areas during the holiday season. **The Holiday Crime Prevention Patrol Initiative**, as the annual program is known, places dedicated uniformed officers, troopers and deputies in the commercial areas along Main Street and Route 140 in Westminster. The Maryland State Police will focus their efforts along the Route 140 corridor within the county. Law enforcement will conduct high visibility vehicular and foot patrols in an effort to decrease crimes such as robberies, retail theft, shoplifting and theft from vehicles that can often occur in the weeks leading up to the holidays. The initiative kicks off on December 1, 2017 and will continue through the holiday season.

Citizens are reminded to "shop smart" during the holiday season to minimize their chances of being victimized. Sound strategies include:

- Park in well-lit areas and walk in groups.
- Park close to the entrance of the store or the mall if possible.
- Keep your eyes open and be aware of your surroundings. Don't talk on your cell phone when walking – it tends to distract you from your surroundings.
- Carry your keys in your hand as you walk to your vehicle.
- Always lock your car and take your keys.
- Store packages and valuables in a locked trunk or covered and out of sight.
- Call 911 if you feel you are in danger or see something suspicious.

### MEDIA CONTACT

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**Best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday Season!**

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