



THE NET

Lincoln Business Watch



Scams: A Thief's Search for Easy Money

Business owners, managers or employees who oversee or have access to sums of money often become the target of those who seek contributions or donations, from your account. These scams typically begin with some "tale of woe". In the past few years more and more people are going door to door to solicit donations for different charitable organizations. Most of these are legit charities but there are groups of people that come to Lincoln to take advantage of the generosity of our citizens. For example there are groups of people selling magazines or books to fund a charity that may not exist. You make a purchase from this person and a few months later your magazine or book never shows up. This person has now walked away with your money and you have no idea who it was. If you pay with a check, then you have to be extremely careful because now this group of thieves have access to your bank account, routing number, and bank name. With the easy click of a computer mouse and some legal, easy, and cheap banking software, this group can now print checks with your business name. The groups are usually good about changing the checks, so that your account number is the same, but a different routing number, bank name, or account holder information is listed. This way by the time the bank sends it to several different locations to find out this is a counterfeit check, it has been several months and the suspects are nowhere to be found.

You may ask how can this be stopped. The easy answer is asking a few quick questions. First of all ask the seller for his/her selling or peddlers permit. According to the Lincoln City Ordinance, a peddler is required to obtain a permit before selling or offering any services. The ordinance and other qualifications are explained on the City of Lincoln Municipal Ordinance 5.36, Peddlers. If this person does not have the permit, send them on their way and call the police immediately. Most of the time the people selling things without a permit are or are working for someone who can't obtain a permit. The qualifications of a permit say the person can't have any felony convictions or offenses involving moral turpitude for the prior 10 years, has to be at least 16 years old, and can only sell between 8am to 8pm unless the buyer asks them to return. MOST of the time when the person who has no permit is asked to show the permit, he/she will make up an excuse such as: My boss has it, It's in a work vehicle, or I don't have it on me at this time. Tell the person to leave your business and call the police so we can investigate. Another simple tip is do not allow the sellers to an area of the business where there are valuables are kept. In the past years we have had sellers invited into homes or businesses and within a day or two there is a burglary or theft. Investigation or cameras show the suspect was someone who was canvassing the business earlier. Here are some laws that are in the municipal code regarding peddlers permits.

5.36.010 It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in business as a peddler as hereinafter defined within the corporate limits of the city without first having obtained a permit...

5.36.020 Peddler shall include any person travelling by foot, automobile, motor truck, vehicle, or other type of conveyance, from house to house,....transporting goods, wares, meats, fish, vegetables, fruits, candies, magazines, or other products or merchandise....offering or exposing the same for sale, or making sales and delivering such articles to purchasers, or offering to furnish or perform services.

5.36.080 It shall be unlawful to make in-person calls as a peddler to prospective customers before 8:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. on any day of the week, unless requested to do so by the prospective customer.

Any questions contact me (Ofc. Matt Stegman #1329) at 441-6514



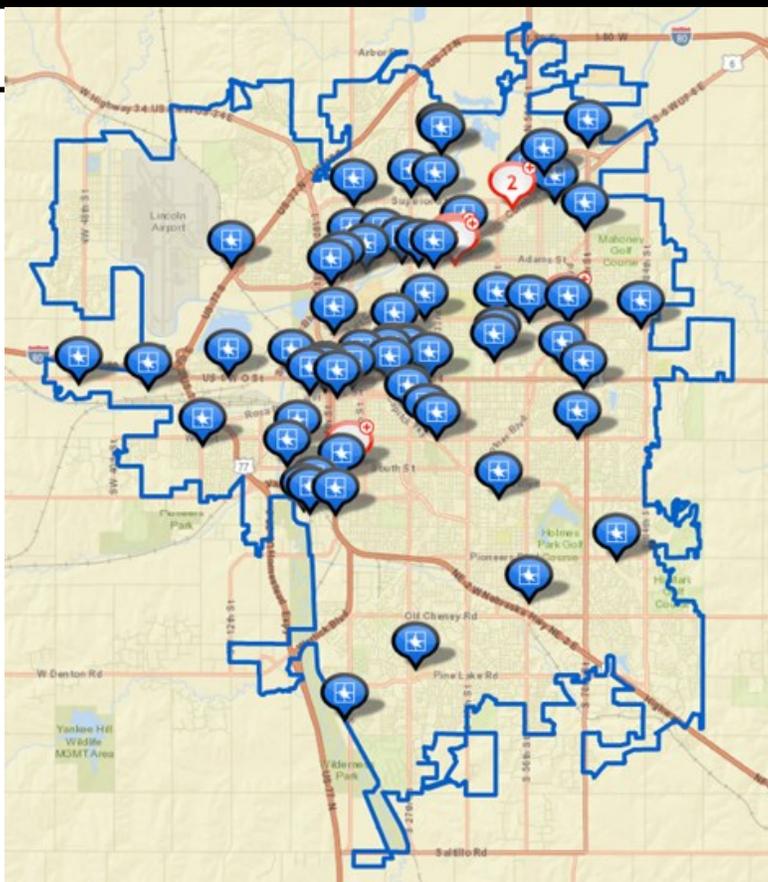
GENERAL SECURITY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS:

- Keep work vehicles locked at all times, the windows rolled up, and secured.
- Keep people out of work areas that are not allowed or loitering around.
- If hiring temporary help for the summer months, make sure you get your work ID badges and keys returned to avoid potential problems.
- Keep an eye on repeat customers returning items for cash and make the customer show an id to get the money returned.
- Make sure all cameras are working and record.
- Due to recent workplace violence issues, train all employees on how to handle an aggressive customer, co-worker, or any kind of threat inside the business. LPD does offer training on workplace violence (free of charge).



CRIME TRENDS

Between January 1, 2015 thru July 2, 2015, the police department has investigated 79 commercial burglaries. Most people think the burglaries occur at night but statistics show most occur during daylight hours, usually after the business closes or before it opens. These burglaries are not isolated to any particular area, time of day or day of week. Below is a map of Lincoln and the locations of the commercial burglaries that indicate time of day and day of the week these crimes are occurring.



NORTHWEST TEAM: 20 Burglaries

NORTHEAST TEAM: 24 Burglaries

CENTER TEAM: 14 Burglaries

SOUTHWEST TEAM: 12 Burglaries

SOUTHEAST TEAM: 9 Burglaries

WHEN CLOSING THE BUSINESS

- Leave cash drawers open and empty
- If you have a safe, limit the number of people who have the combination.
- Make daily deposits and alter the times the deposits are made.
- When you leave, make sure all windows and doors are locked.
- If you don't have a safe, hide the money in an unexpected container and place.
- Make sure your alarm is activated.
- **CALL THE POLICE to report Suspicious Behavior**

