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**Crime Prevention Unit**

# Press Release

## **Safety Alert: Recent Pick Pocket incidents reported in downtown area**

**Walla Walla is a wonderful place to live, work, play and vacation! However, we do want to remind you that whenever out in public places to keep your money, cell phone, and personal information safe by following a few safety tips:**

- Do you carry your wallet in your rear pocket? How easy would it be for someone to pull it out in a crowd? If possible, keep your wallet in your front pocket.
- While shopping in the grocery store how many times do we see the handbag left in the cart while the consumer is feeling the cantaloupe? Simply wearing your handbag strapped over your chest with a hand over the opening can prevent you from becoming a victim of theft.
- Pay attention to what you do with your wallet after you pay for something. Do you drop it in the bag alongside your purchase or keep it secure? How easy is it for someone to grab and run with your wallet while you set your bag down or swing it along with you? If your bag of choice is a large over sized carry bag it should be kept closed.
- Don't openly carry large amounts of money. Your smaller bills should be on top or in the front.
- Where do you carry your cell phone? Can anyone walk away with it as you pass by? Take the simple step to secure your cell phone on your belt clip or into your closed bag instead of just letting it hang out for anyone to take it.

**Also, while out in public be aware of your surroundings. When you get out of your car, pay attention to who and/or what is going on around you. When you are out shopping, keep an eye out for suspicious behavior. Is someone following you or do they seem to be watching you and/or walking too closely to you? Don't let yourself become distracted when in a crowd. Report any suspicious behavior to the management or law enforcement.**

**For Release [Time, AM/PM Time Zone, Date]**

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