**A Message from the Police 3rd Precinct May 24, 2012**

**Bicycle thefts**

This is the time of year when bicycles may go missing due to garage burglaries. Some bikes are stolen out of backyards or when left unsecured outside a store, park building or libray. Police recover many bicycles during their investigations and when residents call 311 to report bikes left somewhere. Unfortunately, hundreds of bikes are never returned to their owners because there may be no proof of ownership available. These bikes and many other items are sold through the Minneapolis Police public auctions. See attached auction schedule.

**TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF HAVING YOUR BIKE STOLEN, RECORD THE MAKE, MODEL, and SERIAL NUMBER OF YOUR BICYCLE** **AND KEEP THE INFO IN A SAFE PLACE.** **ALSO, save your purchase receipt; it is proof of ownership.** This information is essential if you want to get it back if it is found by the police.

You can find the serial number on the “bottom bracket” of the bike. This is the cylinder on which the pedals rotate. Turn the bike upside down to see the number. Take some photos of the whole bike as well, especially if the bike is unusual looking or has unusual markings. Put your name on the rim under the tires.

* **ALWAYS LOCK UNATTENDED BICYCLES.** Avoid locks, chains or cables that can easily be cut, broken or picked.
* **C:\Documents and Settings\greeldf0\Local Settings\Temp\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\L4TYEBW6\MC900432217[1].wmf**Lock the bicycle to something stationary, preferably where you and others can see it.
* Properly secure garages or storage units where bicycles are kept.
* Remove any bicycle components and accessories that are easily taken.
* Observe persons loitering near parked bicycles, even if the bikes are locked. Quickly **call 911 about suspicious activity.**

**HOW TO REPORT STOLEN OR LOST BICYCLES:**

* Call 911 to report a theft in progress or stolen from a dwelling or storage unit, or when evidence is left behind (e.g., fingerprints, tools, video surveillance).
* Call 311 to make a police report after your bicycle has been stolen.
* To see if your stolen bicycle has been found by the police, contact the Property and Evidence Room *(Monday - Saturday 8am to 9pm at 612-673-2932*. You can also directly call *612-673-5665 between 7am and 3pm Monday through Friday*.

**Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist for more prevention information.**

**Go to:**

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams>