

## Parking Lot Security and Safety Tips

### Arriving at the Lot

- ☐ Be aware of your surroundings.
- ☐ Park in highly visible, well-lit areas.
- ☐ Avoid parking near shrubbery or vans with sliding doors.
- ☐ Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, lock them in your trunk so they are out of sight.
- ☐ Scan the area before exiting the vehicle.
- ☐ Avoid the amount of time you spend idle in your vehicle (you have time to scan the parking lot)
- ☐ Lock your doors as soon as you exit vehicle.
- ☐ If possible, walk with a friend or group from parking lot to your building.
- ☐ Be aware of your surroundings. Walk purposefully and look confident. Keep your head up and scan your environment. Assertive body language can help prevent an attack.
- ☐ Stay off your phone. This can be a distraction and will hinder your ability to know what is going on around you.
- ☐ Be cautious of strangers asking questions, asking for assistance or trying to hand you something (pamphlet or literature).
- ☐ Remember where you parked.

### Returning to the Vehicle

- ☐ Walk with a friend or in a group
- ☐ Be aware of your surroundings. Walk purposefully and look confident. Keep your head up and scan your environment. Assertive body language can help prevent an attack.
- ☐ Scan the parking lot before returning to your vehicle.
- ☐ Have your keys out and ready as you approach your vehicle.
- ☐ Look for signs of forced entry. Glance under, around and in your vehicle. If you see something suspicious, use your panic button.
- ☐ Stay off your phone. This can be a distraction and will hinder your ability to know what is going on around you.
- ☐ If you carry a purse or backpack, be cognizant of the fact that they can be used as a handle for a perpetrator to grab you. Carry your purse or backpack to your side (not across your chest) and close to your body, if you need to let go of it, let it go and run to safety.
- ☐ Quickly enter your vehicle and immediately lock the doors.

### What to do if approached

- ☐ If someone approaches your car, honk the horn
- ☐ Call 911 or security (Main Campus 812-450-7500 or Gateway Campus 812-842-3900) for help
- ☐ If a car approaches you while walking, be loud and walk in direction of other people
- ☐ If you feel you are being followed, then walk, run or drive to an area with light or a crowd of people. Call for help!!

