



Ref no: BME/39/2007

391 New Bridge Road #04-14/15
Police Cantonment Complex Blk A
Singapore 088762
1800-236 9999

29 November 2007

Dear Community Partners,

CRIME PREVENTION ADVISORY – HOUSEBREAKING AND THEFT

There has been a spate of break-ins at commercial premises in the Central Business District areas for the month of November 2007. These affected commercial premises include the shophouses and commercial office buildings. While the Police take every step in projecting our presence to deter and prevent crime, we strongly encourage you, as the owner of the premises, to play active roles in securing and safeguarding your premises properly.

Common Modus Operandi

2 The common mode of operation employed by these housebreakers to gain entry into premises is by forcing open the doors or windows. In some cases, the culprits gained entry through false ceilings or ventilation openings. There was a case whereby the culprit easily detected the alarm box/device and cut off the power supply linking to the central alarm monitoring station. In some of the recent cases, a relatively new *modus operandi* was noted whereby the culprits made holes on the wooden doors to reach the door latch on the other side to open the door to gain entry into the premises.

Preventive Measures

3 The value of the items stolen from the premises can be quite substantial. The affected premises will also experience significant inconvenience to their operations when they resume business. To minimise the security risks of your premises, you are encouraged to consider adopting the following crime prevention measures:

- a) Use solid and quality locks for your main doors and windows. If possible, install door gates and window grills;
- b) False ceilings and ventilation openings should be grilled up/secured against intrusion;
- c) Expensive equipment should be kept in a room which is locked and secured;
- d) Do not leave large amounts of cash overnight in your premises. If necessary, valuable or important items should be kept in a good quality safe that is embedded against the wall or to the floor to prevent the safe from being carted away;
- e) Engage an alarm system company to install a proper burglar alarm system in your premises. Link it to a central alarm monitoring station and protect your alarm box/device properly. If possible, reduce the delay trigger time for your burglar alarm system;
- f) Engage a CCTV security company to install a proper CCTV system in your premises. Your CCTV cameras should be strategically installed in your premises for good coverage and should have capabilities to capture footages under low light conditions.

- g) Arrange for your staff to conduct regular visits to your premises or your security management to conduct regular checks within and outside the perimeter of your premises.

4 If you have any information in helping us to solve any crime case or wish to report suspicious person(s) loitering around your premises, please do not hesitate to contact **Bukit Merah East Neighbourhood Police Centre** at 1800 – 236 9999 or the **Police hot-line** at 999. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**DSP ONG ENG BAN
COMMANDING OFFICER
BUKIT MERAH EAST NPC
CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION**

CRIME PREVENTION – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY