



# HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



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# CRIME PREVENTION TIP

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**DATE:** June 17, 2010  
**TO:** Crime Prevention Program Participants  
**FROM:** Deputy Stephen Wilbanks  
**SUBJECT:** Hotel Crime Prevention  
**DISTRIBUTION:** All members

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With the summer travel months upon us, now is a good time for a few reminders regarding crime-free travel, particularly at hotels. The economic downturn has in some cases resulted in reduced security staff; that, along with increased property crimes, requires extra diligence.

**Points to consider:**

- Ensure that your hotel door has multiple locks, including a blind dead-bolt.
- Do not open the door to anyone whose ID is unverified. If in doubt, call the front desk.
- Don't get on an elevator with anyone suspicious or intoxicated.
- Don't insert the key into your door or enter your room if you spot someone suspicious loitering nearby. That is the opportunity to force you into the room. Go to the front desk and ask for an escort.
- Use the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door, even when out of the room. Leave the TV and a light on when you leave the room.
- Do not leave valuables in your room. There are many ways to defeat hotel door security (coat hanger under the door to hook the handle, unsecured house keeping key). Use an in-room safe or a front desk safe deposit box if available. Don't assume that hotel staff will not steal your belongings.
- Park in a well-lit area, as close to the hotel lobby or parking attendant's booth as possible. Do not leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle.
- If it is a criminal matter, insist on involving the local police. Some hotels are prone to try to keep things quiet to protect their business.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact

Deputy Stephen Wilbanks  
Crime Prevention Coordinator  
Hall County Sheriff's Office  
610 Main St.  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
770-533-7674  
[swilbanks@hallcounty.org](mailto:swilbanks@hallcounty.org)