

## **The following tips to keep yourself safe and protected while renting:**

- All exterior doors should have deadbolt locks.
- Buy a quality lock for your bike to protect against theft.
- If someone you don't know enters your residence, call the police immediately via 911
- Do not automatically open the door when someone knocks. Ask who is it. If you are hesitant about the response do not open the door and keep it locked.
- Lock your doors. All doors in your house should be locked at all times. If you have a car, make sure you keep those doors locked as well. Contact your landlord if you have concerns about any security devices in your house.
- Lock your windows. Don't give burglars an opportunity to gain easy access
- Secure your laptop. Make sure that you purchase a lock for your laptop and keep it locked, even when in your home.
- During party's, put your valuables in a safe place.
- Mind your valuables. Keep your valuables out of sight at all times.
- Leave a light on in the house or apartment. Use a timer.
- Leave an outside light on at night.
- Make sure all entrances, hallways, stairwells and parking lots are adequately lighted.
- Do not store anything at the top or foot of stairwells.
- Make sure there is more than one exit to your home or apartment.
- Portable heating devices must be monitored closely. Never leave the room with the device on. Never leave materials or paper too close to the unit.
- Leaking faucets, running toilets & broken showers should be fixed immediately.
- Do not let garbage or recycling pile up inside or outside of the house or you will get rodents.
- Keep garbage cans and boxes away from windows
- Do not have too many people on a balcony or porch that can not support them.
- Make sure porch/deck railings are secure.
- Shovel snow from walkways and porches immediately.
- At night, don't travel alone. Where bright clothes.
- Introduce yourself to the neighbors so they know who you are.
- Don't leave candles unattended.
- Don't leave food unattended on the stove.
- Have a friend collect your mail and newspapers while you are gone.
- Have an escape plan and make sure all family members know it.
- Identify an outside meeting place and never return to a burning building.
- Keep lighters and matches away from children.
- Keep the stove clean and free of grease.
- Keep your home clean and organized.
- Know two ways out of every room.
- Never overload electrical outlets. Do not use electrical cords for long-term use.
- Sleep with your bedroom doors closed.
- Smoke alarms save lives, but only if they work. Be sure to check your alarms every month and don't take the batteries out
- Never smoke in bed.
- Use large heavy ashtrays and keep them away from upholstered furniture and curtains.