

Business Security Update

Community safety is always a priority in Kelowna and is one we are highly committed to maintain during this unprecedented time. As business owners adjust to having employees work from home, reduced hours, or closing in the short term due to COVID-19 precautions, vacant buildings and streets can elevate the risk of property-related crime. While we, as a community and country, work to reduce the risks of COVID-19, we would like to share some crime prevention tips for your members, including information about who to call when you see suspicious activities. Visit kelowna.ca/safety to find updated information the business community and all citizens can use to take steps in adopting and adhering to crime prevention practices.

We live in a safe city yet protecting our possessions or merchandise from theft is an ongoing challenge. In 2019, property-related crime continued to increase with theft from autos, shoplifting, and theft of bikes among the top reported crimes. To date this year, we are also seeing an increase in commercial break-and-enters. Fortunately, property crime is preventable.

The RCMP and City are working together to add more frontline personnel patrolling Kelowna's business districts in 2020 and employing new strategies to prevent, detect and deter crimes earlier. As just one example, a pilot initiative is underway in partnership with the Downtown Kelowna Association to register commercial CCTV cameras with the goal to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of police investigations. Only through a shared commitment, as individuals and a community, to reduce the opportunities for preventable property crime can we achieve the results we all desire.

Reporting crime after-the-fact is also important. Knowing what and where crimes are occurring in our City directs the deployment of our resources and prevention strategies. To make reporting some types of crimes easier, an online reporting tool is available [here](#).

We ask that you share this information widely within your membership to raise immediate awareness about the need for collective action to reduce preventable property crime in our city now and into the future.

On behalf of the many dedicated frontline professionals working in your Police and Bylaw Services, thank you for your continued partnership as we all work to keep Kelowna a safe place to live, work and play.

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Detachment



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