

Onehunga Community Watch

Community Police Newsletter

September
Issue 2022

Throughout August I had the privilege of gaining further policing experience as I was tasked with running a “Field Training Group” based at the Mt Roskill police station.

The purpose of the “Field Training Group” is to provide our new Police constables from Police college an opportunity to gain some exposure to a wide range of policing prior to them being deployed to their perspective home stations.

I had seven new police recruits including three experienced Police Field Training Officers that guided and trained our new staff through a variety of tasks and arrests.

Some of the training our staff were exposed to included the use of Police technology and administrative tasks. The staff also gained experience in conducting vehicle stops, engaging with members of the public and attending a variety of jobs called in by members of the public who required police assistance.



Number plate theft prevention.

“Safer Plates”



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Thefts, intoxicated drivers, stolen vehicles, family harm events and bail checks on our high profile criminals and liquor licence premises checks were but a few of the events our new staff were exposed to during their time with the field training group.

Local Crime

Unfortunately our residents and local businesses are reporting higher than normal incidents of property crime for this time of the year, and as a result Police want to urge businesses and residents to be extra vigilant.

A majority of crime occurs due to the unforeseen opportunities that are created by unwitting victims not aware of the opportunities they are presenting for criminals. Please refer to burglary and vehicle crime prevention advice further in the newsletter.

Crime Trends

We are seeing that the majority of residential burglary is occurring throughout the day whilst burglaries from businesses occurs predominantly throughout the night and early in the morning when the chances of being observed or caught is low.

Vehicle crime for the most part occurs throughout the evenings and early mornings when opportunities are at their greatest.



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Residents across a number of suburbs are still continuing to report incidents mail theft and letterbox tampering.

If you do see anyone going through letterboxes or acting suspicious in the neighbourhood, please call police immediately on 111.

Provide a good description, direction of travel, and if the opportunity arises, take a photo and pass it on to Police.



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Safer Plates

The Onehunga Community Patrol in partnership with Police, run a number plate theft prevention initiative called “Safer Plates”

The purpose of this initiative is to make it harder for thieves to steal your car licence plate for the purpose of evading detection when committing other crimes.

Thieves use stolen plates to avoid detection by placing stolen plates on their cars or on other stolen vehicles when committing crimes such as burglaries, shop thefts, robberies, ram-raids and vehicle thefts etc.

On average over one hundred car licence plates are stolen each month across Auckland.

Contact our Local community Patrol to have your vehicle licence plates fitted with anti-tamperproof security screws. We run events each month, weather permitting. (the Community patrol charge a small fee which is used to help fund raise resources for this non-profit community patrol group.)

Please visit the Onehunga Patrol at <http://onehunga.patrol.org.nz/> or via email on onehunga@cpnz.org.nz



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Reducing burglary opportunities

Knowing how a burglar thinks and operates is good background information to help put things in place to prevent you, or someone you know from becoming a burglary victim.

Burglaries can account for more than 50% of all property crime in our communities.

- Set up or join a Neighbourhood Support Group in your area and advertise the fact by displaying Neighbourhood Support signs and stickers.
- Make sure doors and windows, and other entry and exit points from your house have good quality effective catches and locks. Deadlocks are the best, so always get into the habit of using them.
- Always lock doors and windows at night.
- Keep garden sheds and garages secure, and lock away any valuables such as bikes and garden tools.
- Have an alarm system professionally installed, and consider getting home security cameras which are now very affordable. Door bell cameras are a great option as they can notify the owners of people coming to the address whilst recording their movements.
- Trim Trees and shrubs which may hide a burglar's activity.
- Fences are great, however these may also conceal a burglar's activity and reduce passive monitoring by neighbours who can't see your home.



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- Install sensor lights on main paths and entry points. Additional lighting will help deter unwanted visitor while increasing the effectiveness of home cctv cameras.
- Get to know your neighbours and develop plans to deal with problems or suspicious activity. Exchanging phone numbers or emergency contact information is a great start. Members of Neighbourhood support are especially good at doing this.
- If you're going away, ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your property, clear mail, mow berms etc. You want to make the property look lived in and not do anything to suggest that the house is temporarily vacant.
- Don't post images on social media whilst your on holiday. Some criminals may have access to these sites and target your home while you're away.
- Don't place boxes of your new purchases out on the curb side. This may elude to the fact that you have new items of value in your home.
- Above all, remember that burglars like easy and tempting opportunities. Don't overlook the obvious and do all you can to reduce the risk of being burgled.
- Record serial numbers and keep a property record database. There are a number of very good phone apps such as 'Hoist' which was created for this very specific purpose. Phone apps enable you to record all your purchases and export your property list information to your email address which you can share with Police.



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Preventing vehicle crime

Putting security measures in place to prevent vehicle crime may be some of the least affordable actions you can do prevent yourself from becoming a victim of car crime. These types of crimes involving motor vehicles can account for as much as 50% of all reported property crime to Police.

- Install an alarm system or engine immobilizer on your vehicle.
- Use a good quality steering wheel lock, and ensure that it is fitted in the correct manner that makes removal by criminals difficult.
- Install anti-tamperproof screws on your licence plates. Licence plate is very common and is associated to more serious types of crime.
- Install a wheel clamp to prevent your vehicle, trailer or boat from being stolen.
- Remove all contents from inside your vehicles. If you leave it on show, expect it to go. The majority of car crime is committed by opportunists, and in most occurrences the damage caused to gain entry to your car can be greater than the value of the property stolen.
- Park in well lit areas. Try to identify public areas with CCTV cameras, nonetheless the forementioned actions are the best deterrents to preventing car crime.



Hillsborough crime summary for August 2022

Last month, residents of Hillsborough reported an additional four vehicle related offences compared to incidents reported throughout July 2022.

These additional offences related to the theft from vehicles, and the theft of vehicles.

Of the four reported incidents of “theft from vehicles” three of these incidents involved the theft of licence plates including the theft of a tote bag left in view that was placed in the rear back seat of a victims’ car.

Police recommend using anti-tamperproof screws on your licence plates to make it more difficult for thieves to steal your plates.

Also remember not to leave anything inside your vehicles as property left on display is one of the main reason victims are targeted by opportunistic criminals.

The number of burglaries reported throughout August remained low with only four incidents reported to police.

All of the burglaries were reported to have occurred during the daytime, however the majority of vehicle crime appeared to have occurred during the evenings and throughout the night.

The streets with multiple incidents last month were:

Hillsborough Road x 4

Hoskins Ave x 2

Littlejohn St x 2



Hillsborough crime map – August 2022



Burglary



Theft ex-shop



Theft ex-car



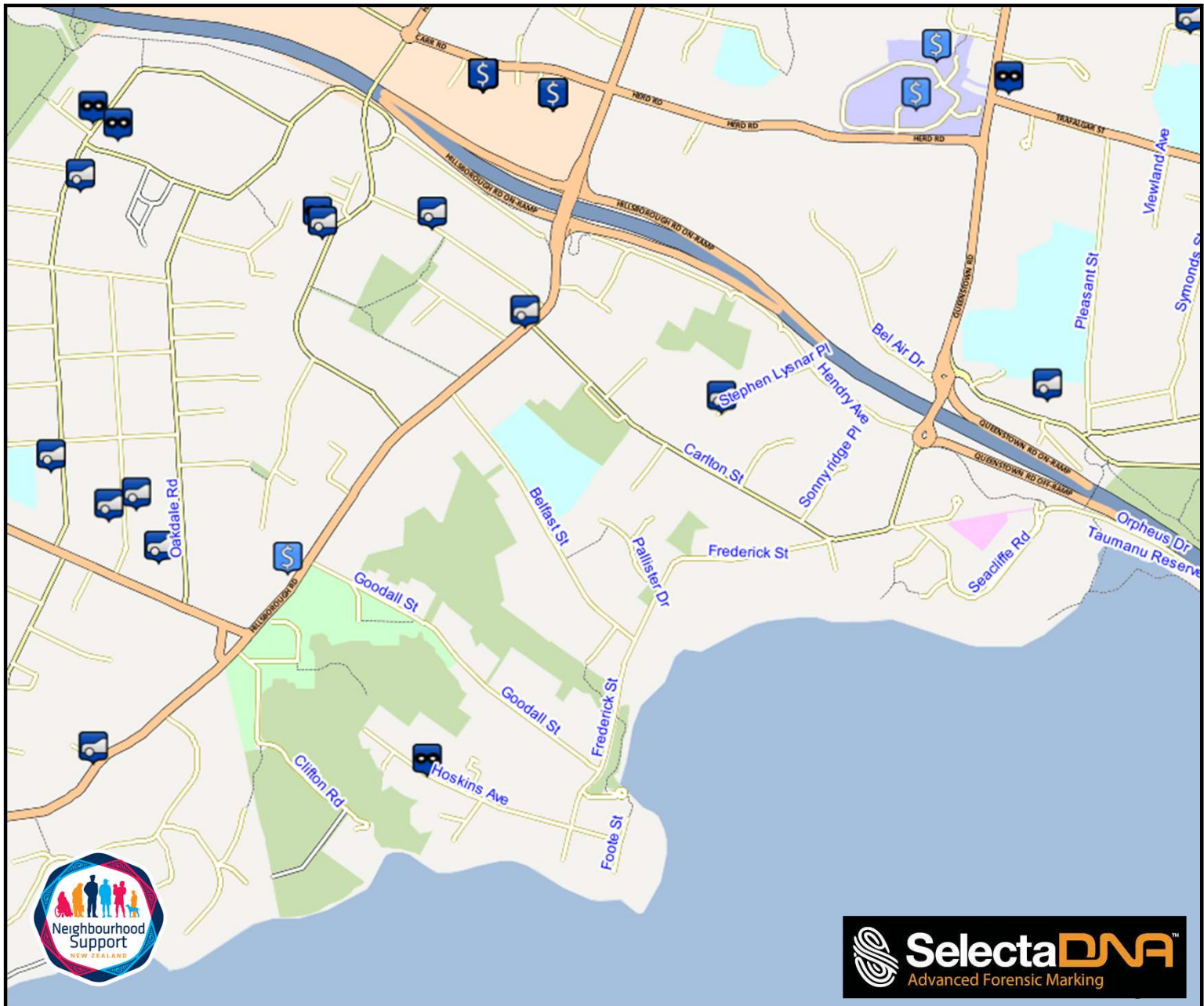
Unlawful takes



Other theft



Property damage





Onehunga Crime Summary for July 2022

Last month residents of Onehunga reported a thirty percent increase in property crime throughout the suburb compared in incidents reported throughout July 2022.

This increase in crime was associated to fourteen additional burglaries and seven more thefts from vehicles.

The number of vehicles reported stolen remained the same with around twenty six stolen during August.

Of the burglaries reported to Police, around seventy five percent of the victimisations occurred throughout the day, however trends in vehicle crime reflected that around sixty eight percent of incidents occurred throughout the night.

The streets in Onehunga with multiple incidents of property crime during August were:

Onehunga Mall x 8

Arthur St x 6

Church St x 5

Mays Rd x 5

Normans Hill Rd x 4

Mount Smart Rd x 4

Trafalgar St x 4

Grey St x 3

Neilson St x 3

Oranga Ave x 3

Edmonton Ave x 3

Hardington St x 2

Springs St x 2

Grotto St x 2

Selwyn St x 2

Moana Ave x 2

Victoria Ave x 2

Jordan Ave x 2



Onehunga South & Onehunga August 2022



Burglary



Theft ex-shop



Theft ex-car



Unlawful takes



Shop theft



Property damage



Te Pāpapa – August 2022



Burglary



Theft ex-shop



Theft ex-car



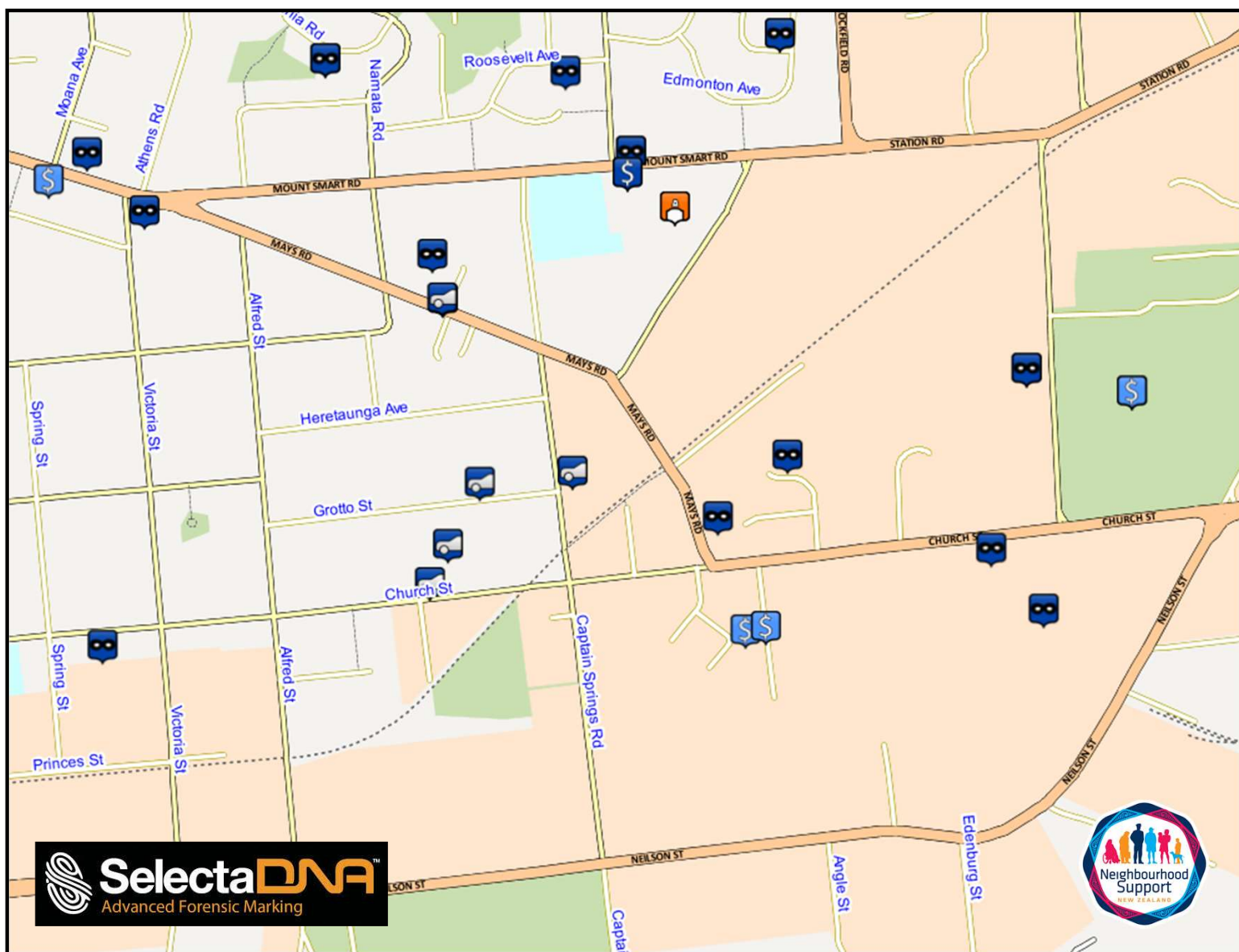
Unlawful takes



Shop theft



Property damage



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Oranga - One Tree Hill August 2022



Burglary



Theft ex-shop



Theft ex-car



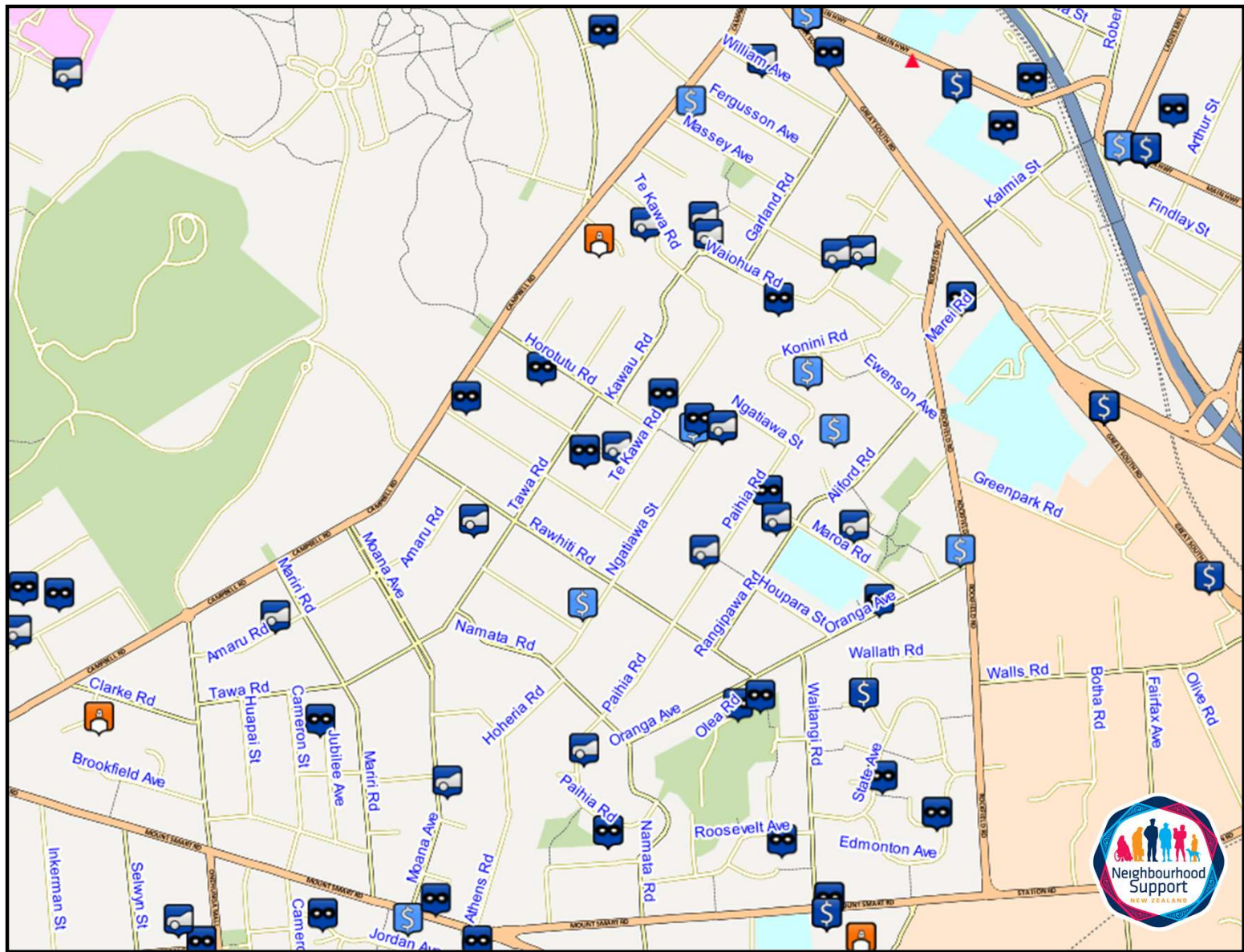
Unlawful takes



Shop theft



Property damage



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Penrose August 2022



Burglary



Theft ex-shop



Theft ex-car



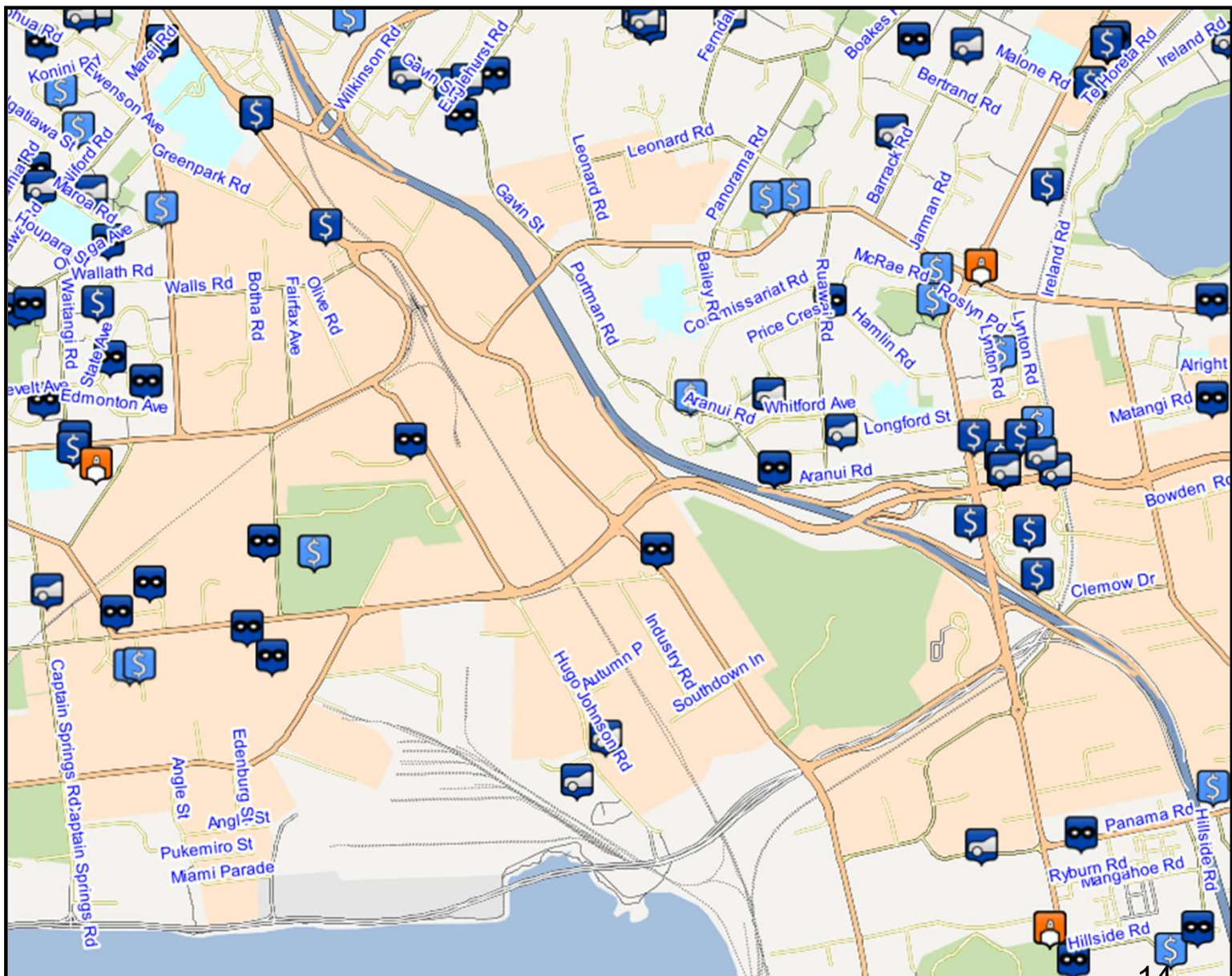
Unlawful takes



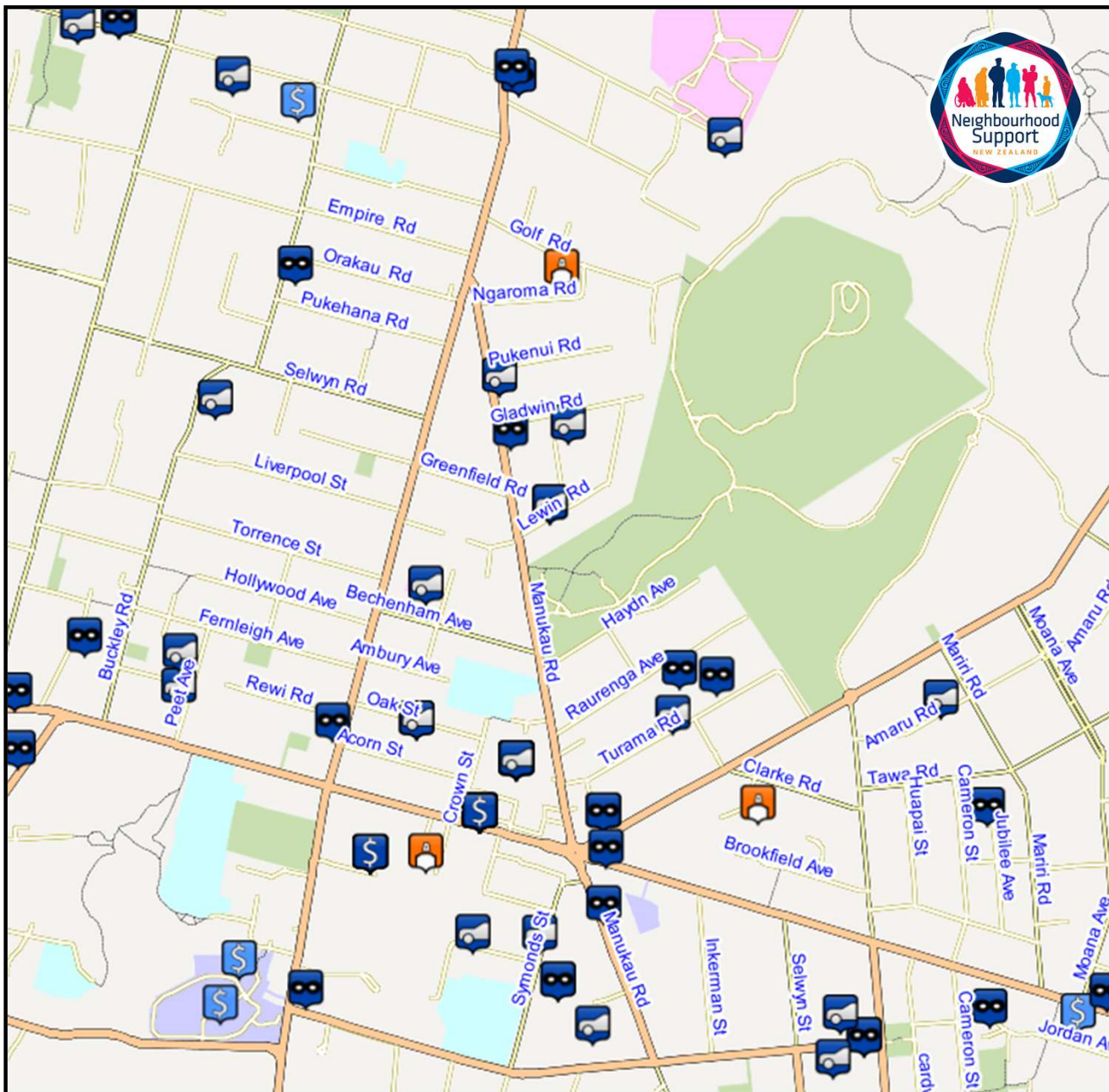
Shop theft



Property damage



Royal Oak – Epsom South August 2022



Unlawful takes



Theft ex-car



Theft ex-shop



Burglary



Shop theft



Property damage



Ellerslie August 2022



Burglary



Theft ex-shop



Theft ex-car



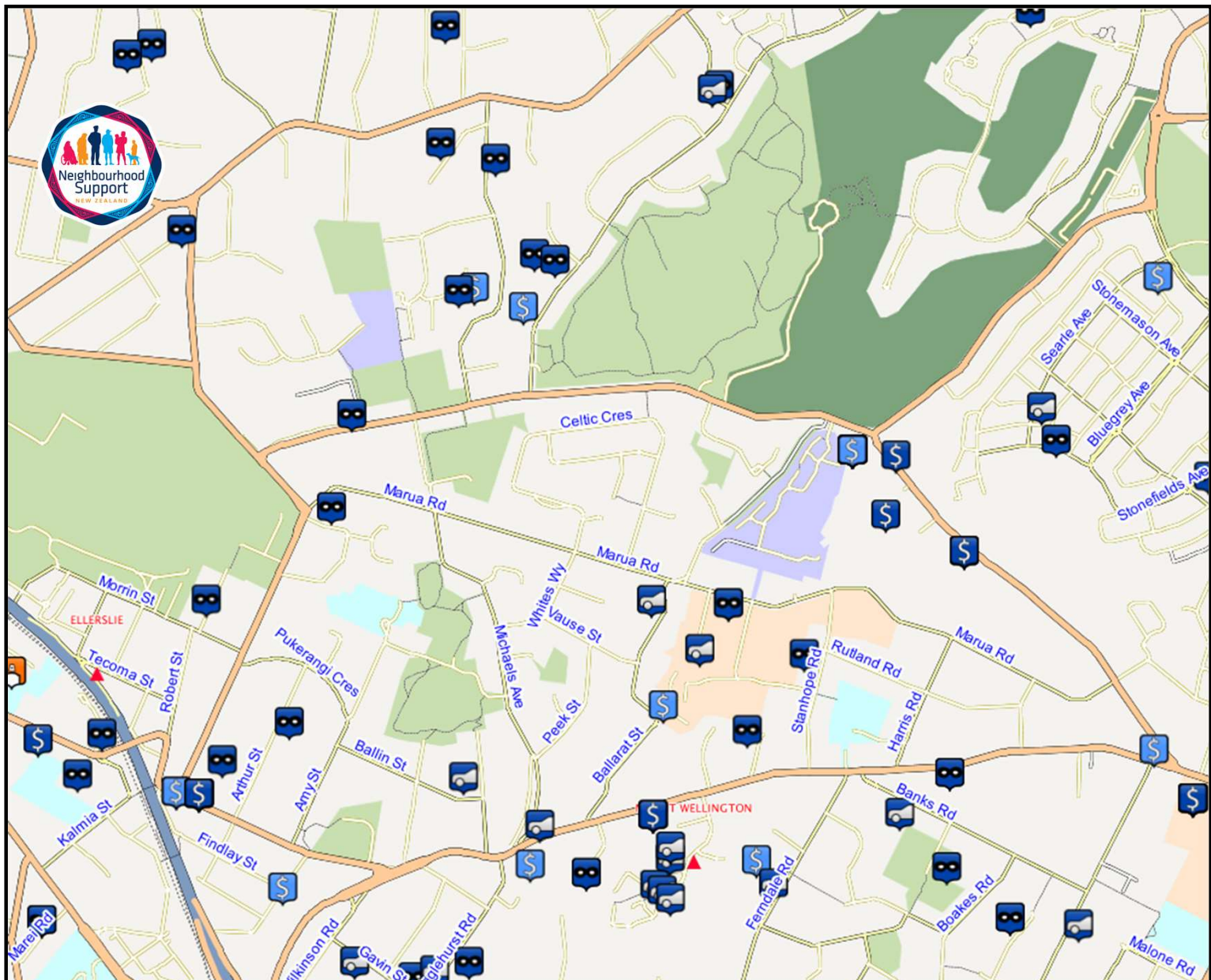
Unlawful takes



Shop theft



Property damage





Personal Safety for Seniors

Plan Ahead

- Make a list of the phone numbers of people you can call in an emergency and keep a phone by your bed. You may be able to pre-programme these numbers for speed dialling.
- Arrange with a neighbour to look out for you. For example, arrange for a neighbour to phone or visit you if you have not drawn your curtains by 8.00am.
- Consider getting a medical or personal alarm that you can activate in an emergency

Don't be tricked

- Don't open the door to strangers. Look through a peephole in your door or through a window, and always ask who it is. If you don't know them, keep the door closed.
- If someone you don't know asks to use your phone, offer to make the phone call yourself. They don't need to enter your home and you don't need to open the door.
- Don't do business with strangers who come to the door or call you by phone.
- Don't discuss your finances with strangers or give out details of your bank or credit cards over the phone.
- Talk to friends and get several quotes before you employ tradespeople. [Age Concern](#) may be able to recommend someone.
- If you think someone is trying to cheat you, contact the Police. You may be able to prevent someone else from being tricked.



General Safety tips

- Don't open the door to strangers.
- Never admit to being alone.
- Install a wide-angle peephole in your door.
- Install security chains on the inside of external doors.
- If someone asks to use your phone, say no. Keep them locked out and direct them to the nearest phone box or offer to make the call for them.
- If you receive a wrong number phone call, don't chat and never give out your name and address.
- Ask for a security checklist from your Neighbourhood Support contact or Community Constable



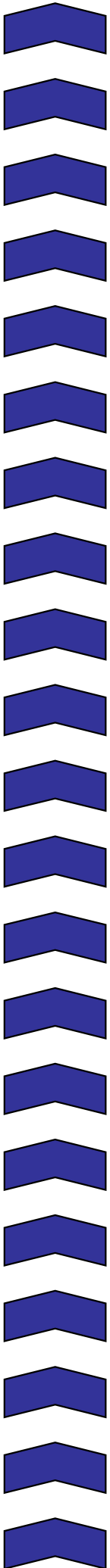
Keeping your information safe online

How do I protect my passwords?

- Choose a password that is difficult for others to guess. For example, don't use your pet's name, your birthday, or 1234.
- Preferably use a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols. It's safest to use different passwords for different accounts.
- If one password is compromised, the rest of your accounts will be safe.
- If you need to write down your passwords, keep them hidden somewhere (not in your wallet, or by your phone)

How do I protect my information online?

- Make sure you've got up-to-date virus software, especially if your shopping or banking online. Look for the padlock on the web page, which suggests it's secure
- Emails from people you don't know often contain viruses that let others access your computer. Don't click on any links or attachments and delete emails without responding.
- Never email personal details like your bank account or credit card number to anyone, even if you think they're a friend. You don't always know who you're dealing with online



- Never email personal details like your bank account or credit card number to anyone, even if you think they're a friend. You don't always know who you're dealing with online.
- Think carefully before sending an email or putting something on a webpage. Once your information's out there, you cant take it back. If you use Facebook, set your profile to private so you only share information with people you choose

You can help make your Neighbourhood safer

Don't be put off calling 111, Your call is important regardless of police ability to attend. There will be times when serious risk to life and property may prevent attendance, however your call is still important to us. Be patient and if necessary call back. Your call may help determine future proactive police and community patrol deployment.

111 - Police Emergency

- You or your property are or someone else or their property is in immediate danger
- You are witnessing someone committing an offence eg. Assault, Tagging, Breaking into cars
- An offence has been committed and the offender is still present.
- Someone acting suspiciously

105 Police Crime Reporting Line <https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105>

- You wish to report an offence or suspicious behaviour that has happened and doesn't require emergency attendance

*555

- You wish to report bad driving or boy racer activity

0800 555 111 Crimestoppers if:

- You wish to report some information about crime whilst keeping your identity anonymous

(09) 3010101 Auckland City Council

- You wish to make a noise complaint: It can be loud cars, music or people!
- You wish to report graffiti

0800 7867 8247 (0800 STOP TAGS)

- You have information about a tagger operating in your area

Community Constable Don Allan
donald.allan@police.govt.nz 021 1913077 or 09 2138691