

## **Commercial Break and Enter Prevention**

*By Crime Prevention Officer, Constable Ingrid Hannah, TPS Div 54*

- The target for most commercial entries is cash. By leaving the empty plastic cash tray from your cash register till inside the front door, it sends a message to prospective thieves that there is no cash being kept inside the business overnight. Do this at the end of the business day just before locking up.
- leave a light on inside the business overnight
- Install motion detector lights outside the business, especially at the rear if your business backs onto an alleyway or other secluded area
- Install lock screws on all doors that have exterior hinges to prevent removal of the hinge
- Install HD cameras inside the business and outside at entrances. It is especially important that there is an interior camera installed at eye level that captures persons coming through the front entrance
- The most common entry point for commercial entries is the front door which is usually glass. Having the glass laminated will make the glass shatterproof and will prevent entry. An alternate is to have good quality security bars installed behind the door. Ensure that the bars are close enough together that a person cannot reach their hand through and unlock the door by punching a hole through the glass near the lock.
- Do not leave cash overnight in the business. If you plan to leave float money or any other cash in the business overnight, invest in a good quality safe and have the safe bolted to studs or concrete.
- Thieves often case out a business prior to breaking in and a common target are donation boxes left insecure in the overnight period.

**For more information, please feel free to contact your local crime prevention officer:**

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