

For Immediate Release

**“CINDY LOU WHO” (THE ORIGINAL “CHRISTMAS CRIME STOPPER”)
AND “THE GRINCH” WANT TO HELP PROTECT YOU FROM “CHRISTMAS CRIME”**

Vancouver, B.C. (December 13, 2021): When you think about it, Cindy Lou Who had a big impact on Christmas crime.

Cindy Lou is the little Whoville girl in the Dr. Seuss book who changes the Grinch’s mind about stealing Christmas.

Think of it as “a crime averted”.

Now, Cindy Lou Who and the Grinch want to “pay it forward” by convincing us all not to be complacent and become victims of “Christmas crime.”



Porch Pirates love the stuff you paid for and conveniently left FOR them on your porch. Did you really leave it for hours, so crooks could pick it up?

Who’s keeping an eye on that huge, inflatable Christmas lawn display that you paid hundreds for? What if some or all of it just “disappeared”?

Why did you post all those pictures from your New Year’s holiday in Hawaii, while burglars scrolled and scrolled their phones to see who’s not home?

Did you know your new digital video security system comes with an app that lets you watch your house from anywhere? OK, but have you bothered to download it yet?

“With a little forethought, we can do a lot to keep ourselves safe from Christmas crooks,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “We especially have to thwart porch pirates who follow delivery trucks and steal packages within minutes of delivery. If you see a crime in action, call 9-1-1 or the local police. And if you have information about what nefarious deeds somebody’s up to, but want to remain anonymous, call us at Crime Stoppers by phone, online, or through our “P3” smartphone app.”

CINDY LOU’S (AND CRIME STOPPERS’) TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

1. **So many packages, so many porches. Easy pickings!** If you’re not able to watch for your delivery, ask neighbours to help watch. You can return the favour for them too.
2. **Close your blinds and have home video security cameras watch for deliveries and crooks.** Feed the images to your smartphone. Maybe you’ll spot a crook stealing your Christmas lawn display.

(more)

3. **Think twice before clicking “yes” on that online shopping cart.** Organized retail crime costs Canadians almost \$5 billion a year, so buy from established businesses, not unknown sources. Shoplifted or stolen goods may be sold online or through flea markets, with the money often going to gangs dealing in drugs or illegal weapons.
4. **On vacay? Maybe think about posting that selfie as a “#latergram”.** Remember, your post tells the whole world you’re not at home. Hope you have a good home security package!
5. **65-inch TV just in time for Super Bowl? Great, but hide all that cardboard until you recycle it.** Boxes from expensive gifts “outside” your house tell thieves the expensive gift can be found just “inside”.
6. **Etch it - mark your property in case it’s stolen.** Ask local police to help etch your property with your driver’s license number. Also photograph valuables showing their make, model and serial number.

TIPS - DOWNTOWN AND AT THE MALL

7. **Your car is not supposed to be a mall for thieves.** Before you lock up your car, leave nothing visible inside. Not even pocket change or empty bottles or cans.
8. **Keep it “light”.** Find a busy, well-lit section of the parking lot and lock your gifts out of sight in the trunk.
9. **Leave your garage door opener at home or in your pocket.** A thief who takes your remote sitting from your console, and finds your address from something in the car, considers that an open invitation to come check out your garage!
10. **Watch your pockets in the mall** - Keep purses and wallets where you can keep track of them and thwart pickpockets who look to take advantage while jostling with holiday crowds.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Anonymous tips may be provided by calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477 or 1-855-448-8477 (new number)**, contacting us online at solvecrime.ca, through Crime Stoppers’ downloadable **“P3” app for Apple and Android phones** or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#). Find MVCS on Twitter: [@solvecrime](#). Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards.

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For media inquiries or interviews please contact:

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Trevor Pancoust

tpancoust@pacegroup.com

778.386.0843