

Arrowhead Gardens Residents Community

Safe Apartment Living

Do you know who you're letting into your apartment building? What do you do if you see suspicious activity or behavior? What do you do if you feel threatened by someone? These and other questions were brought up in a presentation provided to us by the Seattle Southwest Precinct Community Police Team in March of 2019.

We live in security buildings and it's important we don't compromise that security by letting people we don't know into the building. If you see someone loitering by the door, delay your entrance or exit. Go to the B Building if you're outside. Hang around and talk to a neighbor. It's equally important that we realize that even if we do know that this person is the relative or friend of a resident that the resident may not want that person to be visiting them at this time. Unless the resident has given you express permission to let someone in for them, tell the visitor to use the call box and have the resident buzz them in. Remember that your lease requires that visitors be accompanied by the resident they are visiting at all times. Visitors are not to be wandering the halls and common rooms alone.

If you think someone is in physical danger, suspect a crime being committed or see suspicious activity or behavior, **call 911**. Then report to the office that you've done so when you can. **You will not get into trouble for calling 911 if it turns out there is no problem after all.** The police would rather you err on the side of caution. If you can take photos of the situation that can be helpful, but don't compromise your safety to take them. If you are hearing impaired, can't speak, or are in a position where you need to be quiet, **text 911**. Make sure your text includes your exact location and the type of help needed.

When calling from a cell phone, the call takers will not know where you are. Stay on the line and answer their questions calmly. Let the call taker control the call and ask the questions. If you interrupt with information, you may actually slow down the process. They will need to know where you are, what just happened, a description of the people or vehicles involved and if you saw any weapons displayed.

If the situation is ongoing or not an emergency, call **206-625-5011**. For instance, call this number if your credit cards have been stolen, your car has been broken into, or you come home to find you've been robbed. Another handy resource is the **Find-It-Fix-It App**. This is a great resource for reporting such things as illegal encampments or dumping, broken or missing street signs, etc.

Reporting issues to the police when they happen, being aware of your surroundings, keeping your security building secure is your responsibility. Tasers and pepper spray, while they may sound like a good idea, can be used against you once they're introduced. Even if properly used, they can just make that person angry. Instead, scream, yell "Help, Police," carry a personal alarm or a loud whistle. Travel in groups if you can when out at night. Ultimately, your safety is up to you.