



68 WEST street NEWS



BULLETIN

The West 68th Street Block Association

December 16, 2019

Tis The Season To Be Careful!

As in any large city, there are occasional pockets of problems. Recently, the UWS has experienced multiple street robberies by organized groups of male and female teenagers who do not live in the area. These street gangs typically begin by surrounding, isolating and assessing their victim's vulnerability. Once isolated the group intimidates their victims by threatening physical assault forcing the innocent to hand over any valuable personal belongings they may have in their possession including, electronics, cash, credit cards and even clothing. School children have been their primary targets. However, these thugs are now expanding their target demographics to include adults.

It is important to note that the 20th Precinct has been vigilant and arrested many of these teenagers. However, as minors they are quickly released and back on the streets.

In addition there has been a rash of break-ins of cars parked on the UWS streets. These incidents usually result when valuable items are seen within the vehicle and have occurred both during the day and at night.

We ask all of our residents to be "nosey neighbors", pay attention and don't hesitate to call the police should you see something suspicious.



Don't forget to Visit/Join Online

Web

WhatsUpWest68th.org/

Instagram

instagram.com/whatsupwest68th/

Facebook

facebook.com/w68th/

Safety Tips

If you live in a walk-up or non-doorman building, make sure that all doors to the building fully **CLOSE and LOCK**.

When you leave your building, **be vigilant and aware of your surroundings** – especially dark corners where individuals can hide.

If possible, **do not walk alone at night** (call a buddy). If you need to walk at night, stay in the light on the main street.
(I sometimes walk in the middle of the street late at night)

Be extra cautious when leaving events parties, bars, restaurants, etc.) late at night.

Avoid wearing a **headset or earbuds**.

Avoid direct eye contact with suspicious individuals and panhandlers. If they approach asking for money, **be polite and quickly keep moving!**

Keep your personal **belongings close and held tight**.

Men - **Keep your wallet in your front pocket**.

Keep jewelry out of sight – Better yet, leave the good stuff home!

Don't accept rides from unmarked vehicles.

Do not leave anything **exposed in your vehicle**.

When traveling on the train, **avoid empty subway cars** and stand far away from the edge of the platform (**UBER LATE AT NIGHT** or stick with the crowd)

If you come home late in an UBER/LYFT, **ask the driver to watch you enter the building**.

