

December 1, 2001

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM NO. 01-27

SUBJECT: "Operation Pawntrace"

Each year there are over 50,000 property crimes reported in Kansas City, Missouri. The majority of these offenses involve the theft of personal property of citizens. The chances of being the victim of a property crime are far greater than any other crime. The response and investigation of these types of offenses place a tremendous burden on our resources.

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce a department initiative to help combat property crimes. This initiative is called "Operation Pawntrace" or Participate and Write Numbers – Take Responsibility Against Criminal Element. The primary objective of this initiative is to educate the public about the importance of recording the description and serial numbers of their personal property. To help attain this objective, the department has developed a pamphlet that explains the program and provides the space to record the necessary information. These pamphlets will be distributed to citizens at department facilities, community meetings, shopping malls, apartment complexes, appropriate crime scenes or any other appropriate opportunity. The citizens should be advised to record the description and the serial numbers of their personal property in the pamphlet and keep it in a safe place. In the event they become a victim of a property crime, they can then provide the information to the responding officer. With the aide of a new website, LEADS Online, investigative personnel can then check to determine if the victim's property was pawned at a pawn-shop. LEADS Online provides leads to help identify the suspect, and it may also result in the recovery of stolen property.

This initiative will be effective with the support and cooperation of all department personnel. I encourage everyone to get involved and help spread the word about the importance of recording the description and serial numbers of personal property.

Richard D. Easley
Chief of Police

DISTIRIBUTION: All Department Members
All Department Elements
To be posted on all bulletin boards for two weeks.

