

# From the Police Department

*From the desk of Chief Sturgill...*

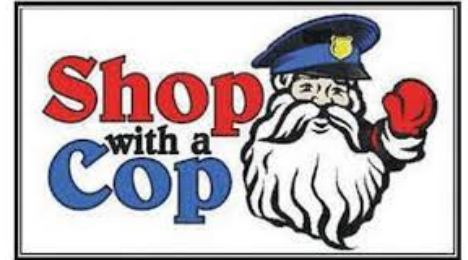
Season's Greetings! With the holiday season fast approaching, we need your help. Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department are selling raffle tickets and seeking monetary donations for the "Shop with a Cop" program. We are working in conjunction with the Fraternal Order of Police George Murray Lodge 67 to make this holiday season more joyous for those who may be in need.

The FOP George Murray Lodge 67 and CHPD have been participating in "Shop with a Cop" since 1996. The program is designed to pair up local officers and civilian volunteers with children who may need a little extra holiday cheer. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Donations are also accepted and greatly appreciated. All money raised goes directly to the children's shopping spree. This program is funded solely from the sale of raffle tickets and donations.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, please contact any Cuyahoga Heights Police Officer and they will be more than happy to help you out. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your check or stop by the police station no later than December 1, 2019. This way we have ample time to notify the children before the December 14<sup>th</sup> shopping day.

Please make checks out to FOP George Murray Lodge #67 and mail to:

**CHPD - Shop with a Cop**  
**5480 Grant Avenue**  
**Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125**



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## Holiday Season ID Theft

The day after Thanksgiving ("Black Friday") is the official start of the holiday shopping season. Unfortunately, identity thieves start shopping, too, only they are shopping for ways to steal!

Please practice the following tips to help you avoid identity theft this holiday season.

### At the mall:

- Only bring your driver's license and the credit card you intend to use. Leave other credit cards and forms of ID at home.
- Watch for "shoulder surfers". Thieves will try to obtain information by taking a picture of your credit card or writing down the information as you make your transaction. Cover your information from prying eyes.
- Only use ATM's in secure locations with video surveillance and always shield your PIN number from others

### Online:

- Make sure the website URL begins with **https**. The "s" indicates that you are on a secure web site.
- Be cautious of e-mails about the status of package deliveries to your home. Never open attachments from unknown sources.
- Don't shop or conduct personal business on un-secure networks, such as coffee shops, stores, restaurants, or public facilities.
- Use only known and reputable on-line merchants.
- Be sure your passwords and PINs are strong, unique, and difficult to detect. Always combine upper and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols.

### General Shopping Tips:

- Use credit cards instead of debit cards. Thieves can drain your bank account if they obtain your information. Also, credit cards typically allow for a longer period for reporting fraud.
- Look for signs of ID theft by reviewing accounts for inaccuracies, receiving cards you did not apply for, and for being denied credit when you have had good credit.
- If you call tech support, be certain you have reached the actual company. Identity thieves will use false support sites to obtain personal information.

Respectfully,

*Chief Sturgill*

