



## **Crime Trend Alert-*Theft of Purses From Grocery Store Lots***

**Sgt LaRrY says**



Over the past few weeks a trend has been noted in which **women loading groceries into their vehicles have had their purses stolen**. The events to date have occurred at a variety of retail grocery outlets across the City, the suspect/s description varies however a reoccurring description is as follows:

**Caucasian male, 5'5-9" tall, brown/reddish brown hair, clean shaven or with slight facial stubble accompanied by a female suspect no description provided.**

The thefts occur in one of two ways, the first being ***while the woman typically with younger children is loading the vehicle with groceries the suspect slips up and steals the purse from the front seat area as the vehicle is unlocked or doors are ajar***. The second opportunity being exploited is when the ***shopping cart is returned to the storage/corral area the purse is stolen*** as the vehicle is unlocked. To avoid being victimized please consider bringing your purse with you and securing/locking your vehicle while returning the cart, none of the events to date has involved any degree of violence or confrontation they are simply crimes of opportunity. Please consider adopting these changes in an effort to avoid being victimized, efforts to identify and arrest the suspects continue.