



City of Margate Police Department

ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



Open and Empty Program

Dear Business Owner,

The majority of all business burglaries occur with the intent of removing the cash from registers. At retail establishments, the most common method of forced entry is to smash out the front glass door or front window(s).

With this common method of entry in mind, the Margate Police Department has implemented a voluntary and **FREE** program called, "Open and Empty." This program consists of business owners and/or managers working to ensure the following efforts are being made to help deter a burglary to their property:

- **At the close of business each day, ensure that all cash registers are emptied of currency and financial institution checks. These items should be removed from the business.**
- **The empty register drawers are then placed in plain-view where they can be clearly seen from the front door or windows.**
- **The Margate Police Department is providing all businesses participating in this program with an "Open and Empty" decal. The decal should be installed in the front of the business indicating that the establishment participates in the program and no cash is left on the premises.**

In addition to the program, here are some additional crime prevention tips for your business:

- Install a security alarm system that includes glass break detectors, invest in a video surveillance system with a high pixel-count resolution and set all video data retention for at least 72 hours.
- Make sure all landscaping is routinely trimmed so there are clear views of all exterior doors and windows to your property.
- All exterior doors should have at least two (2) locking mechanisms.

If you elect to participate in this voluntary program, you must complete the attached Open and Empty Program Enrollment form. Return the completed form to the Margate Police Department where you will receive your Open and Empty Decal.

For more information regarding crime prevention programs and resources, please contact the Community Relations Division at 954-972-7111 or communityrelationsunit@margatefl.com.

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