

## **Violent Crimes Against Seniors Prompt Actions by Warren Mayor Jim Fouts**

**Warren, MI** – Alarmed by a recent series of violent incidents against city senior citizens, Warren Mayor Jim Fouts is directing immediate actions by Warren police.

“I am directing the police department to establish a senior crime unit to thoroughly investigate all violent crimes against seniors and place police decoys under the department’s special operations unit in selected shopping centers in Warren,” said Fouts.

Fouts also announced that a communications program on the city cable TV station and in city publications will alert seniors to avoid situations that could lead to attacks.

“Most importantly, seniors because of their vulnerability have to be aware of their surroundings and suspicious individuals,” said Fouts.

Fouts cited recent Warren police reports on senior attacks:

On October 26 at 7:30 p.m. a 72-year old was walking into her house. A man ran up behind her and forcefully removed her purse from her shoulder. Taken in the robbery was a purse containing \$130.

On October 28 at 9:23 p.m. a 79-year old and a 55-year old pulled into the drive. Suddenly, an unknown assailant opened the front passenger door, assaulted the 79-year-old and stole her purse from the floorboard. The 55-year-old was assaulted by the suspect at the rear of the vehicle. Taken in the robbery was a black leather purse containing \$1100, driver's license, social security card, assorted credit cards, and cellular phone.

On October 29, at 7:18 p.m. an 80-year old was in her garage getting out of her vehicle when she heard a noise. An assailant had stolen her purse from inside her vehicle. She confronted the suspect, and he threatened to punch her. The suspect then fled on foot. Stolen in the robbery was her purse containing \$300, checkbook and a bank card.

Warren police are cooperating with Sterling Heights police with sophisticated equipment to find and arrest the assailants.

Fouts called those attacking seniors as “predators taking advantage of seniors.”

Fouts said the attackers are attacking seniors with weapons and stealing cash and credit cards. “It’s bad enough that the seniors are being robbed but violent attacks make it despicable,” said Fouts.

Fouts said the pattern of the attacks is to either attack the seniors at shopping centers or follow them to their homes and rob seniors in their garages.

Fouts said police decoys in local shopping centers will deter these crimes and a special senior violent crime investigative unit will quicken the apprehension of the attackers.

“They usually leave a trail using credit card or cell phones which leads to arrests,” said Fouts.