

**WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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**JEFFREY SPAULDING**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# MEDIA RELEASE

**IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**  
August 19,  
2009

## **Westminster Police Department Initiates On-Line Crime Mapping and Alerting Service Through “CrimeReports.Com”**

Beginning on August 24, 2009, the Westminster Police Department is pleased to announce their use of an on-line crime mapping and alerting tool known as “CrimeReports.com”. This web-based system provides both the Police Department and members of the community with easy to read and near real-time crime incident maps and basic crime analysis tools. The service, which is provided at no cost to the public through a grant to the Police Department from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, can be accessed by any computer with internet services by going to the website <http://www.crimereports.com>.

It can also be accessed through the City of Westminster website ([www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov)) and then clicking on the Police link. Citizens who enroll on the site will also receive automated e-mail alerts when a crime occurs near their home, office or school.

This service allows those visiting the site to view crimes reported to the Westminster Police Department displayed as icons on an easy to use map. The crime data is updated on a nightly basis. By clicking on the icon, additional information is available to include:

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

**WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
TIPS LINE— (410) 857-8477

- Incident type
- Date and time reported
- Location of incident
- Westminster Police Department case number
- A brief description of the incident (available for serious crimes to include robberies, burglaries, auto thefts and those cases involving an adult or juvenile arrest).

Chief Jeff Spaulding stated *“CrimeReports.com is an excellent tool for both the Police Department and the community. It allows citizens to remain aware of reported crime and police activity in their community on a near real-time basis. It will also allow our officers to remain aware of what is occurring in their beats and City-wide, even when they have been off for several days. Having this kind of accurate and timely information allows the community to be full-partners with the Police Department as we collectively strive to improve the quality of life here in Westminster”.*

Mayor Kevin R. Utz feels that the use of automated systems such as CrimeReports.com is an efficient and cost-effective way for citizens to stay informed about what is going on in their community. *“This resource is at the fingertips of our citizens, providing timely information and awareness about what is going on in their own community. CrimeReports.com is another way for the City government to partner with the community to increase crime awareness and improve the quality of life”.*

Anyone with questions relating to this new service should contact **Captain Gerry Frischkorn** at (410) 848-1638.

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