

Maywood Police Department



COMMUNITY ALERT

August 10, 2022

Contact: Carmen C. Rivera
crivera@maywoodpolice-il.org
(708) 450-4409

Maywood Police Chief Willis Issues Warning to Rideshare Drivers

Maywood, IL – On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, Maywood Police Chief Elijah Willis sent out a community alert directed to rideshare drivers in and around the Village of Maywood.

“Over the past two months the village and surrounding suburban areas of Chicago have seen a significant rise in cases of rideshare car jackings. Drivers are being robbed for their belongings, their vehicle, and many times they are attacked at gunpoint once they reach the drop off location.” said Chief Willis. He also said it is his duty to inform rideshare drivers to be on notice that car jackings are on the rise in the area, so they are aware of what’s going on around them.

While the Village of Maywood isn’t the only local suburban town to be stricken with the brazen attacks, Chief Willis wants drivers to be aware of their surroundings wherever they pick up a passenger. He notes that most of the rideshare assailants are picked up somewhere in Chicago. Once their destination location, in Maywood or another neighboring suburb, is reached the driver gets attacked and robbed.

The Chief also stated that rideshare drivers do have an option of when and where to pick up patrons. He added, *“If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t.”* He also shared the following tips for rideshare drivers:

RIDESHARE DRIVER TIPS:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Pay special attention to details of rideshare patrons.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash or valuables.
- Call 911 immediately and be prepared to provide detailed description and information regarding offenders, your vehicle and any other vehicle that may be involved.

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The Chief wants citizens to know that he and his officers have a duty to protect everyone while in the Village of Maywood. He said, *"One of our top priorities as law enforcement officers is to do the best we can to ensure the safety of everyone, not only the citizens of the Village of Maywood, but anyone who may visit our town for whatever reason,"*

If you have any information on rideshare car hijackings or any other crime in the Village of Maywood, please contact Maywood Police Department at (708) 450-4450 or at the **Maywood Police Department Anonymous Tip Line at (708) 450-1787.**

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