

Sammamish Police Administrative Sgt. Christine Elias

Now our Acting Police Chief!

“Community Conversation” – May 18, 2022

Christine Elias (pronounce “e LI as”) graduated from Bellevue schools and the University of Washington, and joined King County Police in 1995, serving time on patrol, detective in Major Investigations Section, graveyard shift in Sammamish, and for the last three years as the administrative sergeant, now currently our acting police chief.

(Chief Dan Pingrey has been promoted to “major” and will be “moving upstairs” in Sammamish City Hall.)

Scams that seem to target older adults . . . Call 9-1-1 if you are a victim of any scam.

PHONECALLS:

- **IT phone call** (information technology) such as “I am from Apple and your software is out-of-date . . .”. This leads to a demand for payment to “upload the upgrade in your computer” for which you will need to pay ahead by buying a Gift Card. You don’t want a caller getting access to your computer. Hang up and let 9-1-1 know about this call. **Phone ID seems reasonable** and may show a specific number and name such as the IRS or a business such as Apple or Microsoft, appears to be a legitimate call, and demands you pay for an upgrade they can do over your computer. Hang up. You don’t want a caller in your computer.
- A caller that says, “**You missed jury duty and must pay a fine**” (this is a scam) – hang up.
- **You are advertising an item for sale on Craigslist:** You may get a buyer wanting to send you an over-payment of your advertised amount and have you re-imburse the overage with more cash in the amount of their overage payment.
- **If you are suspicious:** Hang up. Never give out your birthdate, Social Security number, or credit card account number. **Your financial institutions, insurance companies, etc. know those numbers.** Hang up and call the number you have for them to verify.
- If your **credit card has been stolen or miss-used, notify the police** and call the bank to cancel the card and its charges. The bank may need proof of the theft – you can provide the “police report”.
- **Credit Card scams:** be suspicious. If you met someone online who now wants some help paying for surgery or travel, call the police (this also happens with online dating sites).
- **Watch out for social media links** (Facebook, Google, emails, etc.) – often targeted where you may pick up spam. Be cautious about any adds you see on social media. Their products may sound enticing but do some research. Some are legitimate. Some are not.
- **Phony Facebook Friend requests.** If you don’t know them, don’t accept them. Also accounts get hacked. You might see what looks like a friend of yours. Verify with them first before accepting.
- **Identity theft.** Call all credit bureaus and all credit card accounts to report this crime. You will need your police report.
- **Personal safety** – be aware of your surroundings. If you feel you are being followed in your car, call the police, tell them where you are, and do not drive home –Call 911. They will keep you on the phone and help direct you to meet with an officer.
- **Property crimes.** In Sammamish, most happen with unlocked cars and open garages. Another is leaving your purse in your shopping cart while reaching for an item. Do not leave valuables in your car. Do not leave your garage door opener in your car in the driveway. The majority of crimes in Sammamish are car contents, porch pirates, or seasonal (October-December mailbox thefts and people following truck deliveries such as Amazon, UPS, FedEx, USPS, etc.).
- **Best not to leave your car registration in your car** – make a copy and cut out your address. The police need the paper copy to scan in case you are involved in a collision, etc. Cutting out the address keeps criminals from knowing where you live. You can keep a photo of your vehicle insurance on your phone.
- **Porch Pirates following delivery trucks** – it’s year-round and more prevalent near the holidays. House cameras are helpful for deterring as are motion lighting.

- Going on vacation (**vacation house checks**): notify the police if your house will be empty more than three days. Go online to let them know:
<https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/police/request-a-house-check/>
 or fill out a form and take it to your police station. Let your neighbors know. Have someone pick up your mail or have the Post Office hold your mail. Set timers in your house for lighting and the radio to make your house seem occupied.
- **Parking in driveways:** color cameras are good here, especially night-quality with motion-sensor lighting.
- **If someone tries to take your vehicle while you are in it** (doesn't happen here, but more likely in big cities): be aware of your surroundings as you approach your vehicle; be sure to lock your car as soon as you are **inside, call 9-1-1, and report where you are. Do what you can do in the moment to be safe.**
- **School Bully:** This can happen in elementary school onward. Talk to the school counselors - the school needs to handle this. For bullies over age 12, depending on the circumstances, there potentially could be a crime. The schools will generally report this to police.
- You are **knocked down and your purse stolen:** call 9-1-1 and call the credit card companies to cancel your cards.
- **Catalytic converter theft** (45 seconds to saw it off your car, \$600-ish value to the thief). Consider buying a safety kit that provides more protection to sawing (some auto repair shops will install this).
- **Speeders on your street:** call 9-1-1 or report online. Sammamish has two motor officers who can be scheduled to be visible as well as patrol cars. Sammamish PD motor officers can do speed studies in addition to traffic enforcement when deemed appropriate.
- **Police Night Out** (Tuesday, Aug 2) will include a city event. You can schedule officers to neighborhood gatherings: Website for neighborhood gathering requests will be updated in the near future.

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EMERGENCY & IN-PROGRESS: CALL 9-1-1 (King County 9-1-1 can transfer you to local police.)

NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH: (206)-296-3311 Call the non-emergency dispatch number when you need to file a police report or speak to an officer.

NOTE: If you are reporting a police matter such as any non-emergency incident, parking or traffic complaint, please call the 24-hour communications center at [\(206\)-296-3311](tel:206-296-3311) or click the below link to report it:

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/sheriff/on-line-reporting/on-line-reporting.aspx>

City police department: <https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/police/?page=traffic>

The mission of the Sammamish Police Department is to provide quality, professional law enforcement services to improve public safety within our city.

Since incorporation in 1999, Sammamish has contracted for law enforcement services from the King County Sheriff's Office.

Sammamish Police Officers are [King County Sheriff's Office Deputies](#) who are dedicated to our community by contract.

Sammamish has been awarded the distinction by [Safehome as being the #1 safest city in Washington State](#) as well as [the #3 Safest Small City in America by FrontPoint](#).

- Alana Hall, Police Executive Assistant, (425) 295-0775 alana.hall@kingcounty.gov
- Christine Elias, Administrative Sergeant, (425) 295-0770 christine.elias@kingcounty.gov
- Chief of Police, (425) 295-0770
- Phone: (425) 295-0770
- Fax: (206) 296-0917
- KCSO Public Disclosure Unit: (206) 263-2103

The Sammamish Police Department is located on the first floor of City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE, Sammamish 98075. Office Hours M-F: 8:30 am – 5 pm.

-JoyceB