To keep you informed,

Johns Hopkins Public Safety has been following a recent trend of cell phone snatching that has impacted the Homewood campus area. There have been at least three incidents recently of an individual riding an electric scooter and snatching cell phones from the hands of a victim walking down the sidewalk or street. Thankfully, the phones have been taken without violence or a verbalized threat, however it is a troubling pattern that all community members should be aware of. Below is more useful information on cell phone robbery awareness and prevention:

Here are some tips:

- Try to avoid being distracted with your phone while in public settings – always be aware of your surroundings.
- Conceal items that may be of interest for someone to steal.
- Don’t wear earbuds while on the street, or only listen with one ear.
- Don’t allow strangers to “borrow” your phone or other electronic device.

Other important precautions:

- Keep records on your phone, including 1) make and model, 2) color and appearance, 3) PIN or security lock code, and 4) the IMEI number for GSM phones. (IMEI stands for International Mobile Equipment Identity. It’s a 15-digit number unique to your phone and can be found by looking beneath the battery or by keying in *#06# on many phones.)
- Ensure that your cellphone is password-protected.
- Register your phone with your network provider when you buy it. If the phone is later stolen, report the loss to the provider immediately.
- Don’t store personal or financial information in your phone. If it’s stolen, it’s not difficult for criminals to extract information before wiping the phone’s memory and reselling the device.
- Activate the location services option on your phone. If the phone does not have GPS tracking, consider after-market software. For instance, there’s a free “Find my iPhone” app available from Apple.

If you are the victim of a crime, even off campus, it is imperative that you report the incident to Johns Hopkins Public Safety so you can be provided the support mechanisms available and our team is able to coordinate with law enforcement on addressing concerns.

Johns Hopkins Public Safety

https://publicsafety.jhu.edu/