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**Master Builders Pierce County Launches Plan to Address Construction Site Theft**

Community assistance needed

**TACOMA, Wash. (July 23, 2019)** - To reduce construction site theft in Pierce County, Master Builders Association of Pierce County (MBA Pierce) is partnering with Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) on a *Construction Site Theft Prevention Program*.

"Brazen thieves are breaking and entering homes in communities under construction despite daylight hours and occupied homes," said MBA Vice President Scott Walker. "This could cost new homeowners up to \$500 to \$1,000 per home."

The National Association of Home Builders calculates that, in the Seattle/Bellevue/Tacoma area, for each \$1,000 increase in the cost of a home, 896 people are priced out of the market and may not be able to live in the region.

The agreement between MBA Pierce and PCSD includes a trespassing notification and signage posted at construction sites. For tips from Good Samaritans that lead to an arrest, the MBA member companies that posted the sign will provide a \$250 reward.

"With the rising cost of materials going into residential homes and the ease of reselling online, thieves have moved from vandalism and wire theft, to stealing large quantities of lumber, appliances, fireplaces, and all other things that go into new homes," said Walker.

Homebuyers of new homes in developing communities currently under construction should be on high alert for suspicious activity. If you see something suspicious, be prepared to call 911 or the non-emergency number for the Sheriff's Department.

"We hope that with the help of community members, theft in these areas will become less frequent," said Walker. "Through proactively working with the PCSD team, several arrests have been made in the last 90 days, making our communities safer and reducing new home construction costs."

For more information, contact the Master Builders Association of Pierce County at 253-272-2112.

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*Established in 1945, the Master Builders Association of Pierce County (MBA Pierce) is a trade association representing housing and the residential construction industry. MBA Pierce is the leading voice for the residential building industry, representing more than 650 builders, remodelers and industry professionals employing over 10,000 people in Pierce County.*