



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City Hosts Take 25 Event to Commemorate National Missing Children's Day

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, May 23, 2013 – The Bainbridge Island Police Department, in partnership with The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC), in partnership, will observe National Missing Children's Day this year by participating in the national Take 25 child safety campaign. Police Department staff will be at the Farmers' Market with informational brochures including tips and conversation starters on Saturday, May 25 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Town Square at City Hall.

May 25 has been observed as National Missing Children's Day since it was first recognized in 1983. National Missing Children's Day serves as an annual reminder that there are thousands of children who are still missing, and stresses the importance of making child protection a national priority. The Take 25 campaign is a national child safety public awareness campaign created in 2007 by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. The campaign encourages parents to take 25 minutes to talk to their children about safety and ways to prevent abduction. The campaign begins on May 1 and continues through May 25 every year in communities throughout the country.

“Every day we hear stories about children who escaped a would-be-abductor because someone talked to them about what they should do in that type of situation”, said NCMEC CEO John Ryan. “Education and open communication are key to keeping children safer. Take 25 minutes and talk to your child.”

“Hopefully, this project will help reach those people in need of this important information as well as be a reminder for everyone to stay focused on the safety of all children,” added Interim Public Safety Director Larry Dickerson.

Every year in America, an estimated 800,000 children are reported missing, more than approximately 2,000 each day. Of that number, it is estimated that 200,000 are abducted by family members and approximately 58,000 are abducted by non-family members. Each year, it is estimated that 115 children are the victims of the most serious abductions; they are taken by non-family members and either murdered, ransomed or taken with the intent to keep.

An analysis of attempted abduction cases by NCMEC found that in 84% of cases, the child escaped would-be abductors through their own actions. Teaching children about safety works. It saves lives.

About the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1984. It is the leading nonprofit organization that deals with the issues of missing children and sexual exploitation of children. It operates the national toll-free 24-hour hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST, as well as the CyberTipline which is the national system for reporting suspected sexual exploitation of children. To learn more about NCMEC or to make a donation, visit www.missingkids.com or call 1-800-THE-LOST.

Island residents may contact Officer Aimee LaClaire for more information (alacaire@bainbridgewa.gov or 842-5211).

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