



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SOLICITING IN DOWNEY	1
GANGS OUT OF DOWNEY	2
ELM VISTA DRIVE MEETING	2
EXTRA PATROL REQUEST	2
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION	3

SOLICITING IN THE CITY OF DOWNEY

Soliciting is an issue that concerned residents discuss with regularity at Neighborhood Watch meetings. Many neighborhoods have reported an increase in solicitors within their area. Downey Police often respond to complaints of solicitors throughout the City. In many cases these businesses are legitimate and are providing a service or product. In other cases, unpermitted solicitors may utilize intimidation in marketing their services. In addition, with more extreme cases, the person may have ulterior motives of committing a crime, such as theft or burglary.

All solicitors who operate in the City of Downey are required to obtain a permit from the Chief of Police in order "to conduct or carry on such activity, business or enterprise." As part of the permit process, a background check is completed and personal information from each individual solicitor is obtained. After completing this process, anyone approved to solicit is issued a permit demonstrating they are a registered solicitor. Upon request, all solicitors are required to provide the permit to any person they are contacting. In addition, no person shall solicit except between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.



No person shall solicit at any house, apartment or other dwelling where there is affixed or posted a sign indicating "No Solicitors," at or near the main entry. If you encounter a solicitor and you do not believe they have registered or their behavior is suspicious, aggressive, rude, or threatening; you should contact the Downey Police Department immediately. Officers will respond to check their status and to ensure they are conducting business lawfully.



All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter will be available online at http://www.downeyca.org/gov/police/neighborhood_watch_program/neighborhood_watch_newsletters.asp

DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
 10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241 • Business Line 562-861-0771
 Neighborhood Watch 562-904-2374 • jguzman@downeyca.org

GANGS OUT OF DOWNEY

Gangs Out of Downey (G.O.O.D.) strives to involve the community in the prevention of youth gang activity. To achieve its vision, G.O.O.D. promotes awareness, sponsors the removal of graffiti, supports gang suppression, and educates parents and youth in gang avoidance. In addition, the organization provides interventions for youth at risk of gang involvement. G.O.O.D. is a non-profit organization that is comprised of local government, business, schools, civic organizations, and residents.



Gangs Out of Downey Luncheon 2012
Photo courtesy of *The Downey Patriot*

This all-volunteer group was created in 1989 and serves as an excellent model of a non-profit community-based organization. If you are interested in having a representative from G.O.O.D. speak at your next meeting, please contact 562-904-2374.

For more information, please visit
www.gangsofdowney.org

ELM VISTA DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

On Thursday, June 5, 2012, Elm Vista Drive was host to the City's 115th Neighborhood Watch Group. Councilmembers Gafin and Guerra, Gang Detectives, and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Jane Guzman attended the meeting and addressed public concerns. In addition, residents were educated on how to effectively detect and prevent crime.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to jguzman@downeyca.org

EXTRA PATROL DURING VACATION

Going on vacation or leaving town for a few days? You may request extra patrol and officers will make every effort to check your residence and contact you should any issues arise.

You can contact the Downey Police Department at 562-904-2308 to place an extra patrol request. Be prepared to provide your home address, the dates you will be away, and an emergency contact number.



CITY OF DOWNEY DIRECTORY

Downey City Hall
562-904-7246

Police Department
562-861-0771

Fire Department
562-904-7345

Code Enforcement
562-904-2392

Graffiti Removal Hotline
562-923-4484

Emergency Preparedness
562-904-7347

Neighborhood Watch
562-904-2374

Business Watch
562-923-2191

Gangs Out of Downey
562-904-3514

Shopping Carts
800-252-4613

Animal Control
562-803-3301

CARING FOR YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Downey has an excellent reputation for well-kept neighborhoods. As Downey residents and property owners, we have an interest in maintaining an attractive and wholesome community. One way we can do this is by being aware of the property maintenance standards which help ensure that the high quality of our neighborhoods is maintained. Your help and cooperation in keeping Downey a safe and desirable place to live and work is greatly appreciated.

Property Maintenance

In commercial as well as residential areas, all landscaping should be regularly maintained in a healthy condition free of dead, decayed, overgrown or discarded plant material. Foliage should be trimmed to avoid encroaching into public right-of-ways or interfering with traffic signs and signals. Exterior surfaces should be painted and kept free of significant surface cracks and rough, peeling or chalky paint. This includes all signs, buildings, and light poles.



The mission of the Code Enforcement Unit is to improve the quality of life for all persons who live and work within the City.

Code Enforcement Unit:

- Responds to citizen complaints regarding violations of the City Municipal Codes involving residential and commercial properties and business operations within the City
- Violations of the Downey Municipal Code are misdemeanor offenses of the City's laws
- Enforcement actions range from written "Notices of Violation" to "Administrative Citations" to "Criminal Prosecution" in Downey Superior Court
- Work with all other City Departments, State and Federal agencies

Common Issues & Violations:

- Illegal Occupancy - Living Space
- Building Code Violations
- Accumulation of Junk, Trash, & Debris
- Fire Code Violations
- Property Maintenance
- Environmental Violations
- Business Registration
- Municipal Sign Ordinances

Case Load: Average yearly = 3,500 cases

Accumulation of Junk, Trash and Debris

A common thread in many Municipal Code cases is that of accumulated junk, trash & debris. From dismantled, wrecked or inoperable vehicles, to piles of furniture and toxic materials, it has been proven that wherever accumulations of junk, trash, and debris are found, there are plenty of other problems just below the surface.



Effective July 1st, Code Enforcement will become part of Community Development and will relocate to City Hall.

Code Enforcement can be reached at 562-904-2392