



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LAUNCH FACEBOOK PAGES

The Downey Police Department is expanding its social media outreach to Facebook. The Department and Neighborhood Watch have launched Facebook pages in an effort to open up new lines of communication within the community.

The Department will share crime prevention information and press releases to keep people who work, live and visit the City of Downey informed.



As Neighborhood Watch groups move away from phone trees, many are turning to social media as another way to communicate. The Neighborhood Watch Facebook page will contain information about upcoming training, Neighborhood Watch events, crime prevention tips, and other news.

To "like" the newly launched pages, search for "Downey Police Department" or "City of Downey Neighborhood Watch" on Facebook or visit <http://www.facebook.com/DowneyPoliceDepartment> and http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/City-of-Downey-Neighborhood-Watch/255078531285029.

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

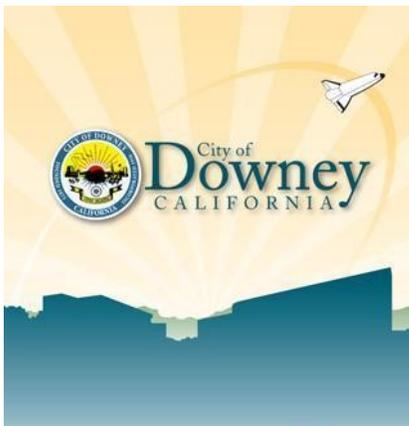
MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Frequently, when a neighborhood issue or crime goes away, so does the enthusiasm for Neighborhood Watch. The key to maintaining an active Neighborhood Watch group is to maintain people's interest. The goal of the Neighborhood Watch program is to empower residents to prevent crime by creating bonds among residents and law enforcement, and by building a base for broader community involvement.



Therefore, in addition to Neighborhood Watch meetings, groups can take part in other activities such as Keep Downey Beautiful Cleanups and community walks. Block Captains should try to make belonging to the Neighborhood Watch group enjoyable. Neighbors tend to get involved and remain interested if the program is fun as well as meaningful. Schedule potluck meetings, organize clean-up campaigns or hold block parties.

myDowney SMARTPHONE APPLICATION



myDowney allows individuals to easily report issues such as graffiti and potholes to the City of Downey along with a photograph and GPS coordinates.

Individuals with access to smartphones can visit the application store from their iPhone or Android and download the free myDowney application. Once installed, you are able to take pictures of the graffiti and/or potholes and submit them directly from your phone.

Your request will automatically be routed to the correct department for the fastest response possible. In addition, you can choose to receive notifications and will be advised when your request has been completed. Please help keep Downey clean and safe.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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

FRAUD MYTH BUSTERS

Busting these common myths will minimize your chances of being scammed.

- **All companies, businesses and organizations are legitimate because they are licensed and monitored by the government:** This is not always true. While there are rules about setting up and running a business or a company, scammers can easily pretend to have approval when they do not. Even businesses that are licensed can still try to scam you by acting dishonestly or sharing your personal information with other businesses.
- **All Internet websites are legitimate:** This is not always true. Websites are quite easy and cheap to set up. The scammers can easily copy a genuine website and trick you into believing it is legitimate.

GOLDEN RULES

Remember these golden rules to help you beat the scammers.

- **Always get independent advice** if an offer involves money, personal information, time or commitment.
- **There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes—** sometimes the only people who make money are the scammers.
- **Do not agree to offers or deals right away.** If you think you have spotted a great opportunity, insist on time to get independent advice before making a decision.
- **Do not hand over money or personal information, or sign anything** until you have done your homework and have checked the credentials of the company that you are dealing with.
- **Do not rely on glowing testimonials:** find solid evidence of a company's success.
- Log directly onto a website that interests you. **DO NOT click on links provided in an e-mail.**
- Never send money, or give credit card or online account information to anyone you do not know and trust. **If a family member needs money in another country, always call other family members to verify the story.** Scammers often tell you wire money and not to tell anyone.

- **There are shortcuts to wealth that only a few people know:** This is not always true. Ask yourself the question: "If someone knew a secret to instant wealth, why would they be telling their secret to others?"
- **Scams always involve large amounts of money:** This is not always true. Often times scammers target a large number of people and try to get a small amount of money from each person.
- **Scams are always about money:** This is not always true. Some scams are aimed at stealing personal information from you.



If you spot a scam or have been scammed, get help. Contact the Downey Police to file a police report or if you were contacted over the internet, file a report with www.ic3.gov

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