



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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## DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS NIXLE ALERTS

Getting accurate local safety information when you need it can be a challenge. The Downey Police Department will begin using Nixle, a Community Information Service, to deliver important and timely information to residents using the latest technology.

Your ability to react to severe weather warnings, evacuation orders, school alerts, and other critical information depends on the accuracy and the immediacy of the information you receive.

This service, created by Nixle, LLC delivers important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications via web, e-mail, and cellular phone text-messages. Nixle is simple, trusted and available at no cost. There is no spam or advertising associated with Nixle messages.

Individuals can register at <http://www.nixle.com/> and choose whether to receive alerts as a text message, e-mail, a notification on the Nixle smartphone app or to view it online.

Residents can also register by texting DOWNEYPD to 888777. Non-residents can search for the Downey Police Department on the Nixle web-site or visit the following link, <http://nixle.com/downey-police-department/>. Standard text message rates apply.

Subscribers also have the ability to register to multiple locations, such as agencies within the area of one's residence or work.

Questions may be directed to Jane Guzman at (562) 904-2374 or [jguzman@downeyca.org](mailto:jguzman@downeyca.org).



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](http://www.downeyca.org/gov/police/neighborhood_watch_program/neighborhood_watch_newsletters.asp)

DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241 • Business Line 562-861-0770  
Neighborhood Watch 562-904-2374 • [jguzman@downeyca.org](mailto:jguzman@downeyca.org)

## 2013 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT & HEALTHY DOWNEY WALK AGAINST CRIME- SAVE THE DATE- AUGUST 6, 2013



Save the date! Downey's 1st Annual National Night Out and Healthy Downey Walk Against Crime will take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, and will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Night Out program. National Night Out is a neighborhood crime prevention event that occurs annually and is celebrated in numerous cities, towns and villages across the United States. In addition to increasing awareness of anti-crime programs, National Night Out also strengthens neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships, while sending a message to criminals

that "neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime." The main focus of the event will be to promote community awareness and wellness by educating the community about public safety, crime prevention and health.

## SCAM TARGETS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CUSTOMERS

Southern California Edison (SCE) is advising customers to be aware of a recent telephone scam that is demanding immediate payment for allegedly past due electricity bills. Imposters have been contacting customers advising they must make an immediate payment on past due bills. They threaten to disconnect electric service if the payment is not made. The callers are also demanding that payment be made through a prepaid cash card, such as a PayPal or Green Dot card.



Henry Martinez, SCE vice president of Safety, Security & Compliance recommends customers ask for the caller's name, department and business phone number suspecting if they suspect a fraudulent call. If the caller refuses to provide this information, customers should terminate the call and are encouraged to report the incident immediately to SCE at 800-655-4555. SCE also reminds customers to ask for identification when a stranger comes to the door or calls claiming to be a utility worker.

For more customer safety tips, visit [www.sce.com/safety](http://www.sce.com/safety).

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to [jguzman@downeyca.org](mailto:jguzman@downeyca.org)

## CITY OF DOWNEY DIRECTORY

### Downey City Hall

562-904-7246

### Police Department

562-861-0770

### 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

## CITY OF DOWNEY GRAFFITI ABATEMENT



Photo Courtesy of Ben Bader- The Downey Beat

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, “an estimated \$12 billion a year is spent to clean up graffiti.” It is costly, lowers property values and sends the message that the community is not concerned with the appearance of their neighborhoods. In addition, graffiti plagued neighborhoods are more likely to experience other forms of crime and delinquency. Although acts of vandalism are not high-level crimes, communities are greatly affected when the damage is not properly addressed.

To help combat this problem, the City of Downey has a graffiti abatement team that operates seven days a week and removes graffiti in a professional and timely manner. The team makes every effort to remove the graffiti within 24 to 48 hours, after it has been reported.

Lisa Fox, who leads the Downey graffiti abatement team, urges residents to always report any instance of graffiti, no matter how small because it can lead to bigger things. To have graffiti removed, please report the problem via our graffiti hotline at (562) 923-4484 or use the myDowney smart phone application.

## HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- If you witness someone tagging, never confront the perpetrator. It is possible they may be armed and dangerous. Instead, call the **Downey Police Department** at **562-861-0770**. Please provide accurate details, such as a description of the individual (s), the graffiti, and vehicle information.
- If you have graffiti in your neighborhood or see it around the City, please call the **Grffiti Hotline** at **562-923-4484**. This is a free service. You can call the number 24 hours a day. With your help, we can *Keep Downey Beautiful*.
- The myDowney smartphone application allows individuals to easily report graffiti and potholes to the City of Downey.



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. The City automatically receives the photograph along with the GPS coordinates. 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.

- More graffiti abatement information can be found at [No Graffiti](#), [Grffiti Hurts](#), and [Keep America Beautiful](#).