

Happy Holidays



Volume 3

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AVOID BECOMING THE VICTIM OF HOLIDAY SCAMS

The holiday season is now upon us! As you open your hearts to help others, the Downey Police Department would like to provide you with some tips to prevent you from becoming a holiday scam victim. Criminals prey on those who are willing to give a little extra during the holiday season. Below are ten tips to help you identify *charity scams*:

1. **Be Cautious:** Fictitious charities are often started during the holiday season or in the wake of a natural disaster.
2. **Ask for I.D.:** Including the name, address and phone number of the charity. If the presenters claim they are a registered charity, ask for their registration number. The Better Business Bureau "Wise Giving Alliance" offers information about national charities. You can call (703) 276-0100 or go to their website at: <http://www.give.org/>
3. **Verify the charity:** Call the office of the charity campaign and ask if they authorized the drive you are being asked to contribute to.
4. **Don't donate cash:** If you can help it, write a check in the name of the charity, not the person standing in front of you!
5. **Ask questions:** What percentage of the donation goes to the cause?
6. **Get receipts:** Including the name of the charity on it and amount donated.
7. **Be wary of charity emails:** Most legitimate charities do not use email for solicitations. (Some charities email people who have donated in the past).
8. **Check before donating:** Be especially wary of charities that claim to be raising funds for local police and fire departments. Check with them first!
9. **Don't give in to pressure of "guilt trips" about "suggested donations":** Once you have determined that the charity is legitimate and you decide to contribute, simply give what you can, it will be appreciated.
10. **Decide who to support ahead of time:** The best way to avoid charity scams is to decide **in advance** which charities you'll support and **contact** them.

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:

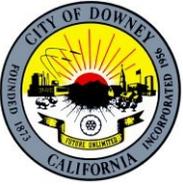
<http://tinyurl.com/k28hxqy>

DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241 • Business Line (562) 861-0770

Neighborhood Watch • (562) 904-2374 • jpreda@downeyca.org

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TRAINING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING



Wednesday, February 25, 2015
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior
Center - Downey Room
7810 Quill Street, Downey 90242

The Neighborhood Watch Program would like to invite all of our Neighborhood Watch **Block Captains** to join us for an evening of training.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Lighting Concerns—Public Works
- Burglary and Vehicle Burglary Prevention
 - Speeding Concerns

For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact
Jennifer Burkhardt Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
(562) 904-2374

KEEP DOWNEY BEAUTIFUL CLEAN-UPS

- Sunday, December 7th—Christmas Parade Cleanup 2:30-4:00 P.M. (Meet to the front of the Library -11121 Brookshire Ave.)
 - Saturday, January 17th—Railroad Property 9:00-10:00 A.M. (Meet at Golden Sea Parking—11911 Woodruff Ave.)
 - Saturday, February 14th—Clean up of Lakewood Blvd. 9:00-10:00 A.M. (Meet in the Carl's Jr. parking lot 9002 Firestone Blvd.)
- Volunteers under the age of 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.*

CITY OF DOWNEY

Downey City Hall
(562) 904-7246

Police Department
(562) 861-0771
Dispatch - (562) 861-0770

Neighborhood Watch
(562) 904-2374

Fire Department
(562) 904-7345

Code Enforcement
(562) 904-2392

Graffiti Removal Hotline
(562) 923-4484

Emergency Preparedness
(562) 904-7347

Business Watch
(562) 923-2191

Gangs Out of Downey
(562) 904-3514

Shopping Carts
(800) 252-4613

Animal Control
(562) 803-3301

CRIME STATISTICS AVAILABLE ON CRIMEREPORTS.COM

CrimeReports.com auto publishes crime data from the Downey Police Department through their crime reporting system. Citizens can access and browse crime information from their computers or phones. On CrimeReports.com, residents will be able to view published crimes for any date range and any location.

Features:

- The CrimeReports iPhone app. allows you to filter crimes by location or address, crime type, and customizable date range.
- View data on the crime map or in a list view.
- View national sex offender data along with crime statistics in your neighborhood.



Visit: <https://www.crimereports.com/>

The screenshot shows the CrimeReports website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the CrimeReports logo and navigation links. A search bar contains the address "10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 9041". A callout bubble points to the search bar with the text "ADD LOCATION IN SEARCH BAR". Below the search bar, there are buttons for "Advanced Search", "Create Alert", and "My Settings". The main content area is a map of Downey, CA, showing various streets and landmarks. A callout bubble points to a blue icon on the map with the text "CLICK ON THE ICON TO REVIEW INCIDENT INFO.". A pop-up window displays the details for a theft incident:

Theft
10800 Block BROOKSHIRE AVE

Identifier:
2014-00074498

Occurred On:
03 Nov 2014 @ 1:30:37 am

Narrative
Forger/Fraud

Agency:
Downey Police Department

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