



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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 Downey Police Department

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4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

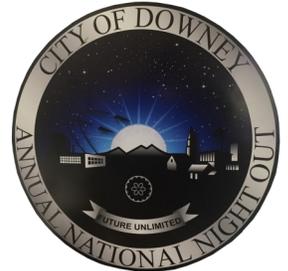
On Tuesday, August 2nd, 2016, the Downey Police Department partnered with other City Departments and community organizations to host its 4th Annual National Night Out. This year's event featured live music by *Best of Times Band*, a search and apprehension demonstration by the Downey Police K9 unit, Child I.D. fingerprinting and a bicycle safety workshop hosted by the Downey High School Kiwins service club.

Downey residents gathered to visit community information booths, sign up for the city's emergency notification system, and partake in a community barbecue.

National Night Out is a community event celebrated annually across the United States. It is designed to increase awareness of crime prevention, generate participation in local programs, improve neighborhood spirit and strengthen the partnership between police and community.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, participants and visitors for making this year's event such a success!

We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



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

EDISON WARNS CUSTOMERS OF PHONE SCAMS



Southern California Edison (SCE) is advising customers to be aware of imposters posing as utility employees who call and claim to be with SCE. Scammers demand immediate payment for alleged past due invoices to avoid disconnection of service. Typically, imposters demand customers purchase a prepaid cash card for a

specific amount of money and provide them with the prepaid card information for payment. Customers suspecting fraudulent calls should ask for the caller's name, department and business phone number. Customers should terminate the call and report the incident to local police and SCE at **1-800-655-4555**.

SCE customers should note that:

- SCE will never call and demand immediate payment with the threat of service disconnection.
- An SCE employee will never ask for money in person.
- Never reveal personal information, including your credit card number, ATM or personal identification number (PIN number) to anyone.
- If someone calls and requests you leave your residence at a specific time for a utility related service, call the police. This could be a burglary attempt.
- Be suspicious of anyone who arrives at your house without an appointment asking to check appliances, wiring or suggesting that there may be some other electrical problem inside your residence. In most cases, appointments are scheduled with SCE customers prior to the service. At times there will be equipment that needs to be checked and an appointment may not be scheduled for these types of visits. SCE employees always have their SCE ID badge visible on their person for customers to see and you can always contact the customer service department at **1-800-655-4555** to confirm the nature of the visit.

For more information customers can visit: www.sce.com/safety

CITY OF DOWNEY DIRECTORY

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) 335-2826

Shopping Carts

(800) 252-4613

Animal Control

(562) 803-3301

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (C.P.T.E.D.).

The basis of *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (C.P.T.E.D.)* is that proper design and effective use of the environment to reduce the incidence and fear of crime leading to improvements in quality of life.

C.P.T.E.D. consist of four principles:

1. Natural surveillance:

- The idea is that criminals do not want to be observed. Surveillance or “eyes on the street” pose risks to potential burglars. The primary focus is not to keep intruders out, but to keep intruders under observation.

Example: Walkways around property should be well lit with good lighting sources.

2. Natural access control

-Natural access control refers to doors, fences, shrubs and other physical elements that keep unauthorized persons out of a particular place.

Example: Well defined walkways direct visitors to the proper entrances & away from private and secured areas.

3. Territorial reinforcement

-Identifying intruders is much easier in well defined places. Clear boundaries between public and private properties helps accomplish this goal. This is achieved by using physical elements such as fences, pavement treatment, signs, good maintenance and landscaping as ways to express ownership.

Example: Mark property boundaries where appropriate with hedges, low fences and gates.

4. Maintenance and management

-This element relates to a neighborhood’s sense of “pride and ownership.” The more dilapidated an area, the more likely it will attract unwanted activities. Tips: Cut back bushes, trees and shrubs to provide better visibility out of your property and into the street.

Example: Traditional security measures such as locks, lighting and alarms are important tools in crime prevention.

USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENSURE HOME SAFETY

During a recent Neighborhood Watch meeting, residents requested information on current technology that can be used to safeguard their homes. Below are a few suggestions that have been mentioned at Neighborhood Watch meetings and have been recommended by Downey residents:

- **Motion sensor lighting:** Motion sensor lighting is a great and inexpensive option to help safeguard your home. Lighting helps illuminate dark areas around a residence and allows people to spot suspicious activity.
- **Home Security Systems:** There are a variety of security systems available. Although an alarm system will not prevent a burglary 100% of the time, it does limit the amount of time an intruder is in the home. Residents who have security alarms are encouraged to post signage in visible areas outside the home as a deterrent. Most importantly, remember to set your alarm when appropriate.
- **Doorbell Cameras:** A recent popular security option has been doorbell cameras in which homeowners can view who is at their front door through their smartphone. These systems notify the owner once the door bell detects motion and owners are able to see and speak with the subjects at the door. Such items can be purchased at local hardware stores or online.