

“Together We Can Make A Difference”

Philadelphia Operation Town Watch

began on July 1, 1996, under the leadership of Anthony Murphy from the Managing Director's Office. He and two Staff members began the process of training and certifying more than three hundred town watch groups in the city of Philadelphia.



Philadelphia Operation Town Watch

developed a standardized training curriculum to certify its member organizations and to insure their preparedness to address crime prevention and monitor citizens' patrols.

The recruitment and training

of town watch groups combined with empowerment efforts and support create what is now called Town Watch Integrated Services (TWIS). As of 2011, Town Watch membership has grown to over 750 certified organizations with over 24,000 trained members participating.

TWIS has Community Support specialists

to address the various needs of the TW groups and the community at large.

Town Watch organizations take on many forms of involvement like mobile patrolling, walking block watches, skating, biking and dog walking. There are Eyes & Ears Town Watch groups in blocks, apartments buildings, retirement communities and business districts throughout Philadelphia, which make The Town Watch Integrated Services program unique.

The role of TWIS has broadened to address issues related to violence intervention and prevention. The need to engage citizens on the streets of their neighborhoods is the most basic level of involvement. Enhanced participation is critical in helping people address their quality-of-life issues.



Town Watch Integrated Services

TWIS Staff

Executive Director
Anthony Murphy

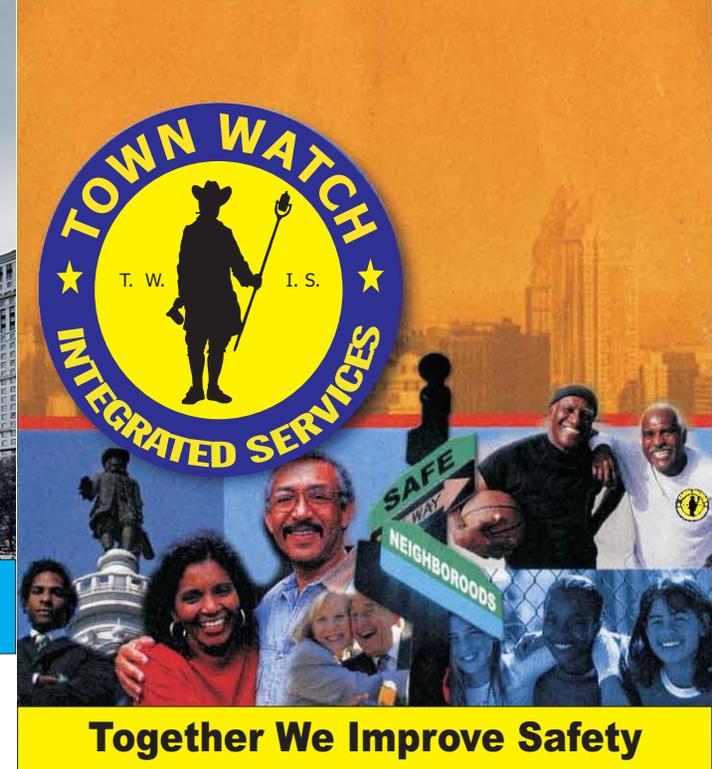
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Check Out Our Web Site
Daily For New Information
www.townwatch.net
or email info@townwatch.net



**Town Watch
Integrated Services**

**Joining or Starting a Town Watch
+ personal and home safety tips**

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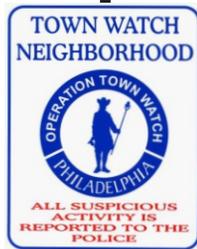
"A good neighbor is one of the most effective crime prevention tools ever invented."

Benefits of Town Watch:

- * Crime reduction
- * A better quality of life
- * A greater sense of security, responsibility and personal involvement
- * Community pride and unity
- * Closer relationships with neighbors
- * Opportunities to collaborate with law enforcement
- * United citizens become the extra "eyes and ears" of law enforcement
- * Organized blocks are a strong basis for a healthy neighborhood

Citizens like YOU are trained

by the Town Watch Integrated Services program to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods, to become Town Watchers. If you see a crime or suspicious activity in your neighborhood, immediately report what you have seen to the police.



Is this sign
in your
neighborhood ?
If not call us !

TWIS will tell you what you need to do

Joining or Starting a Town Watch

7 steps to starting a successful town watch program

- 1: To find the nearest neighborhood Town Watch group, contact the T.W.I.S. office (215) 686-1459 to speak with your community support specialist. This person will walk you through the steps to join or to start a successful Town Watch partnership. If there's an active group near you, the representative will setup a meeting. If you are interested in starting a Town Watch group, he or she will help you to establish and train a T.W. group for your area.
- 2: Talk with your neighbors to recruit and organize as many people as possible.
- 3: Contact your local church, school, recreation center to obtain a location for your first meeting. You may be able to use a neighbor's home.
- 4: Create a flyer to announce your meeting time, date and location or go to www.townwatch.net/ for a generic flyer that you can personalize.
- 5: Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan and keep the meeting on topic. (Remember you want to build a better future: you can't change the past.)
- 6: Discuss the best time, day and place for holding regular Town Watch Training certification meetings for training on relevant skills such as --
 - *Organization building
 - *Recognition and observation skills
 - *911 response codes
 - *Reporting to whom, where, and when
 - *Community policing partnership
 - *Actions to avoid
 - *Fire prevention
 - *Personal and home safety
- 7: Implement a phone and an e-mail list to keep in touch with everyone about future meetings & news.



PERSONAL AND HOME SAFETY TIPS

from

Town Watch Integrated Services

Do's & Don'ts

Do turn on a radio to a talk station when you're away, making it sound like someone is home.



Don't walk in alley ways especially at night.

Ladies who live alone should not put their names on door bells or mail boxes. Use an initial like M. Smith, so no one know if it stands for Mark, Mel, Mike or Mary.

Don't use ATMs at night in poorly lit or bad areas. Most police stations have an ATM inside where it's safe.

Do use the buddy system by inviting a friend to go with you on errands and such.



ID Theft

Identity Theft is a huge issue for community members. When a person's identity has been compromised through a social security number, credit card, or driver's license, it can be a daunting task to remedy. Be sure you are protected from such attempts. For information and downloads go to our website at www.townwatch.net/links



Windows

After doors, windows are the next most-utilized access points, yet they are often overlooked by both law enforcers and citizens alike. Windows can be broken, pried open or lifted from their tracks; or thieves can remove their panes. It is important to have good locks on windows. Although placing nails or pins in a double hung wood window can be a fire hazard, it can also provide extra security when you are away.

Doors

As the primary point of entry for many burglars, the first item to inspect is the front door. Hollow-core or poorly fitting doors can mean trouble, as can front doors that are not equipped with proper deadbolt locks. All exterior doors should be (at least 1.5" in depth) metal or solid wood.



Locks

Homeowners should install strong, reliable deadbolt locks. People spend hundreds of thousands on a house. Why buy a cheap lock? Finally, if there is a change in home ownership, all locks should be changed immediately to avoid the possibility that extra keys to the house may be in the hands of unknown people like past owners, real-estate agents and contractors.



We have hundreds of tips;

for more info, contact us at (215) 686-1459 or
e mail: info@townwatch.net visit: www.townwatch.net