

Protect Your Business/Property and Look Out for Each Other

To report a crime, vandalism or suspicious/dangerous behavior:

CALL 911 or 229-9191

If you witness a crime, or hear suspicious sounds, or detect unusual smells, immediately report it to the Police. A report several days or weeks after the fact often is not as helpful. Note time of incident, description of individual(s) and other observations.

Every piece of information has value

Crime Prevention 101

- Lock building doors and windows.
- Make sure existing locks are strong and not easy to pry open.
- Dead bolts and steel doors provide better security.
- Lock car doors. Don't leave valuables in plain sight.
- Make sure outside lighting fixtures are in working order.
- Ensure side and back entrances are well lit.
- Keep timers on your lights to give appearance of someone moving around building.
- Consider the use of motion detectors placed in key entrance areas.
- Consider the use of surveillance cameras. They are not necessarily expensive or difficult to install. Jen Kimmich (The Alchemist) is open to speaking to other business owners about their experience with the use of cameras.
- Remove cash daily if possible or put it in a secure safe at end of a business day. Safes should be secured to a floor or wall.
- Watch people's behavior when they are in your store. Body language can give off signs. Often a criminal will check out a situation/business before acting.
- Create relationships with people that frequent your business. Often treating people with respect and developing a rapport can sometimes decrease the likelihood that they will steal from a store owner.
- Be a participant of a Neighborhood Watch – "We Look Out for Each Other."

(The above tips were shared at a RW-sponsored meeting in August 2010 with downtown Waterbury business owners and Officer Tim Burrows from the Waterbury Police Department).

Revitalizing Waterbury is *your* downtown organization.

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