

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



CAPS TIPS

*Brought to you by the Chicago Police Department, Allstate and
the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Your Partners for Safe Neighborhoods*

BUSINESS PARTNERS FOR SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

Good businesses are integral to the life and health of a community. They are not only a cornerstone of economic development, they can play an important role in building and maintaining a safer neighborhood. These tips are designed to help you ensure that your business is an active partner in the City's efforts to improve the quality of life in all of Chicago's neighborhoods and to enhance the business climate in your community.

✓Get to Know Your Neighbors: Place a high priority on building good relationships with the other businesses and residents in the community. Only by knowing who lives and works in the area can you know when strangers are hanging around. If your area doesn't have one, form a merchants association. This will give you a regular forum to discuss crime and safety and other issues that may impact you and the other businesses in the community. Getting together with your neighbors provides an opportunity to become more aware of one another's concerns, discuss issues and decide whether some collective activity is needed to address the issues and concerns discussed.

✓Attend Your Beat Meetings: Attending beat meetings ensures you and the other businesses in the neighborhood can ensure that the issues, concerns and problems of that may be affecting the business community become a part of the problem-solving process on your beat. In addition, beat meetings can provide an opportunity for you to discuss with residents of blocks adjacent to your business trends that may be emerging in a neighborhood even if they have not yet become apparent on every single block.

✓Get Involved with Your District Advisory Committee: Beyond beat meetings, each district has a District Advisory Committee. This is a group made up of representatives of all the stakeholders in the

community -- churches, schools, community-based organizations and businesses -- that assists the District Commander in identifying the underlying conditions in a community that can breed crime. Each District Advisory Committee has a variety of subcommittees to address the issues of concern that have been identified; many districts have Business Subcommittees. In addition, each District has a Court Advocacy Subcommittee that follows up on arrests, building code violations and other issues of importance to the community. Participation in the Court Advocacy Subcommittee can help you address crime problems such as shoplifting that may directly impact your business.

✓Become a Safe Haven: By displaying a Safe Haven poster in the window, you are committing your business to assist children, seniors and other members of the community who feel threatened by a person or situation. Assistance can be provided in the form of a phone call for emergency assistance or simply giving a senior or child a safe place to wait until a family member or other care giver can arrive. Participation in this program sends a message to the community that your business is a caring neighbor and an active member of the community.

✓Get Involved: For more information about how your business can become a Safe Haven or get involved in other community policing activities in your area, call 311 or visit the Police Department's home page at www.cityofchicago.org

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