#### **Tips for success**

- Build a relationship with your local government partners; they want to help you be a success.
- Keep your cash register in plain view from the outside of your business, so it can be monitored by police.
- Keep cash registers locked when not in use. Leave cash drawers empty and open after hours, so criminals can see you have nothing to take.
- Secure all obvious points of entry such as roof vents, ducts, or roof access doors to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Request valid ID and verify customer signatures before completing credit card or check purchases.
- Be aware of a customer who makes several small purchases by check or credit card.
- Advertise a policy of prosecuting all shoplifters.
- If you are robbed, don't fight them off, call 911 immediately.
- Do not work alone. If so, turn on a radio or television in a back room to suggest someone else is present.
- Call 311, use the 311 app, or visit *www.311.saccounty.net* for:



- Abandoned vehicles
- Shopping carts - Code violations
- Graffiti
- Illegal dumping
- Potholes
- Street light problems
- Use signs and stickers to warn that you are a member of Business Watch.
- Follow CPTED recommendations.

#### Important Contacts

911
311
916.874.6218
916.874.5251
916.874.5115
916.876.5717
916.876.5729
916.876.8322
916.876.8300
916.875.5852
916.875.5710
916.264.5471
916.874.5411
916.875.5296
916.874.6644
916.875.RAIN
916.875.6789
916.433.HELP

901 G Street - Sacramento, CA 95814 916.874.6218 CA Relay Service 800.735.2929 TDD or 711

@SacCountvDA

### Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

# A CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS MERCHANTS







Working together with the Sacramento Police and Sacramento Sheriff's Departments



District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert Sacramento County District Attorney's Office sacda.org

#### What is Business Watch?

Business Watch is a crime prevention program that encourages businesses to participate in crime reduction efforts by working with law enforcement. It enables businesses to take an active role in preventing and reducing crime by sharing information, raising awareness, and training employees how to recognize criminal activity.



#### Why join Business Watch?

Law enforcement cannot be at every corner, so citizen involvement is essential to combat crime.

As a member of a Business Watch, you can be the eyes and ears of law enforcement in your place of business and community. By making the effort to report criminal activity, you are making your business and the businesses around you a safer place.

"Business Watch programs deter and detect crimes and diminish opportunities for crime."

- National Crime Prevention Council

#### What can you do?

- Start or join a Business Watch group by contacting your neighborhood law enforcement crime prevention specialist.
- Share business contact information such as emails, phone numbers, and addresses with other businesses.
- Attend regular meetings with businesses and county agencies, including code enforcement, law enforcement, and the community prosecutor to share information.
- Start a crime prevention newsletter that business owners or volunteers can distribute.
- Report neighborhood code issues by calling **311**.
- Call law enforcement when a crime occurs at your business. It matters!
- Get involved! Organize community cleanups and business promotions.

## JOIN TODAY!

#### How can law enforcement help?

**Teach** businesses how not to be a target of crime.

**Assist** business owners in implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

**Partner** with county agencies to strategize and reduce nuisance activity.

**Learn** how to properly use Notice of Trespass forms and applicable laws.

Conduct Neighborhood needs assessments.

**Provide** information about crime trends and criminal activity.

#### Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED is a concept businesses can apply to reduce criminal activity. It uses physical design features that discourage crime, while at the same time encourages legitimate use of your business.

This includes:

- Keeping windows unobstructed to create visual surveillance.
- Securing garbage, water, and electrical outlets.
- Landscape design to prevent loiterers and criminals.
- Surveillance cameras and security.
- Business address clearly posted with large numbers.
- Cheap locks don't work, so use sturdy deadbolts.
- Replace hollow-core doors with solid-construction doors.
- Lights deter thieves; keep areas appropriately lit and have motion activated lights in dark areas.

#### Before CPTED



After CPTED

