



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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## MESSAGE FROM TORRANCE POLICE CHIEF JOHN J. NEU



Throughout the city of Torrance, Neighborhood Watch programs have been established by citizens concerned about crime in their neighborhoods. The Torrance Police Department hopes to revitalize Neighborhood Watch and to introduce the program to homeowners who are not familiar with its benefits.

Crime prevention, particularly in residential neighborhoods, is a responsibility that is shared by all of us at the Torrance Police Department and by you in your neighborhoods. It is important to mention throughout the United States, law enforcement professionals report dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses in communities with active Neighborhood Watch programs.

Neighborhood Watch, a community-based program supported by law enforcement since 1972, is now the most successful anticrime initiative in the country. It is also the most effective and least expensive tool for restoring the safe environment we all want for our families. With your help, your neighborhood can be part of this successful story.

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the police and the community. It is designed to strengthen neighborhood security, increase the community's power of observation and encourages mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. Neighborhood crime prevention is everyone's responsibility and I look forward to your active participation in this important program.

If you would like further information about the Torrance Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program, please contact the Torrance Police Department Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391 or (310) 618-6392.

# FROM THE TORRANCE POLICE

The Traffic & Special Events Division would like to remind residents of the requirement to register oversized vehicles and to obtain Daily Paperless Parking Permits for the vehicle. While the requirement for registering has a one-time cost of \$25 per vehicle, Daily Paperless Parking Permits are only good for the year they are purchased and do not roll over to the next year. 2008 Daily Paperless Parking Permits may be purchased at the City's Community Development Department (310-618-5990) or at the Torrance Police Department. For information regarding the ordinance, please visit the Department's website or call the Traffic & Special Events Division at 310-618-5557.



## FROM THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE DIVISION

**Residential burglars** frequently use a **soliciting** cover to case for target homes. These criminals may pose as solicitors, and tell residents who answer the door that they are selling goods or services such as magazines or home remodeling. Burglars **case** neighborhoods to look for "good" targets - homes that appear to have valuables, or where residents aren't home during the day. **Casing** is suspicious activity and should be reported to the Torrance Police Department at (310) 328-3456.



Anyone claiming to be a solicitor or selling items must have a City-issued permit (see sample below). Soliciting without a permit is a Torrance Municipal Code violation. If someone who claims to be a solicitor cannot display a permit, call the Torrance Police non-emergency number at (310) 328-3456.

### CITY OF TORRANCE SOLICITOR'S PERMIT

**THIS CERTIFIES THAT** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representing the firm of \_\_\_\_\_  
 has been granted permission, under the provisions of the Torrance City  
 Code, to take orders for or sell or distribute \_\_\_\_\_  
THIS PERMIT MUST BE IN HIS POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES WHEN SOLICITING  
**AND IS NOT TRANSFERABLE**

EXPIRES **NOT A RECOMMENDATION**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

License Supervisor  
**No. 1541 (OVER)**

Hair	Eyes	Height	Weight	Age
Photo				
Right Index				

This card is provided for the purpose of assuring all citizens that proper identification is on file with the License and the Police Departments, Torrance, California.

### THIS IS NOT A RECOMMENDATION

FOR OR against the products, goods, services or materials offered by the firm or person described herein.

VOID IF ALTERED, MUTILATED OR DAMAGED.

LIC DEPT FORM 00-N

### SECTION 34.1.5. HOURS OF CANVASSING OR SOLICITING.

(Amended by O-1708)

No canvasser or solicitor selling or pretending to sell, or offering for sale or demonstration, goods, wares or merchandise of any kind or character, or any article, material or substance, shall ring the bell or knock on the door of, or attempt to gain entrance to, any residence, dwelling, flat, or apartment after 9:00 P.M., in the evening of any day and before 9:00 A.M. in the morning of any day.

# IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL DRIVERS

## New Cellular Phone Laws that Go Into Effect July 1, 2008

<b>Minors (under 18 years of age)</b> VC §23124	<b>Drivers 18 years of age or older</b> VC §23123
<b>are prohibited</b> from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, <i>including a hands-free device</i> , and/or a mobile service device (pagers, texting devices, laptops, etc).	are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone <b>unless</b> a hands-free device is used.
<b>Exceptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency situations, for example: calls to law enforcement, health care provider, fire department, etc.</li> <li>• While operating a vehicle on private property.</li> </ul>	<b>Exceptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency situations, for example: calls to law enforcement, health care provider, fire department, etc.</li> <li>• Emergency service providers operating an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment.</li> <li>• While operating a vehicle on private property.</li> <li>• A person operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle, school bus, transit vehicle, or tow truck, if using a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature that does not require the device to be close to the ear.</li> </ul>
<b>The fines for both laws are:</b> \$20, first offense plus administrative fees. \$50, second or subsequent offenses plus administrative fees.	

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Will I receive a point on my driving record if I am convicted for a violation of the cellular phone law?**

A: No. The violation is a reportable offense; however, DMV will not assign a violation point.

**Q: Will a conviction appear on my driving record?**

A: Yes, but a violation point will not be added.

**Q: May I use a speaker-phone feature and hold the phone in my hand, but not next to my ear?**

A: No. The law requires you use a hands-free device with your phone. A "push-to-talk" feature is not allowed.

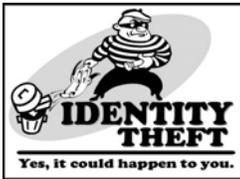
**Q: My car has a built-in hands-free mobile phone feature. Is this adequate or do I have to buy additional equipment?**

A: No. You do not need to purchase additional equipment. You may use your vehicle's hands-free mobile phone feature.

**Q: Can I send a text message on my phone or Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) while driving?**

A: No.





In the course of the day you may write a check at the drugstore, charge tickets to a concert, rent a car, call home on your cell phone, or apply for a credit card. Chances are you don't give these routine transactions a second thought. But others may.

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America, affecting half a million new victims each year.

### WAYS TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

- \* **Do not give out personal information over the phone**, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you're dealing.
- \* **Shred all documentation**, including preapproved credit applications, insurance forms, bank checks and statements you are discarding, and other financial information.
- \* **Create hard-to-guess passwords** with at least eight characters and that include a mix of numbers and both uppercase and lowercase letters.
- \* **Pay attention to your billing cycles**. Follow up with creditors if bills don't arrive on time. A missing credit card bill could mean an identity thief has taken over your credit account and changed your address.
- \* **Order your credit report** at least twice a year from the three major credit bureaus: Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)), Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)), and Trans Union ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)). The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows you to get one free credit report from each of the major credit bureaus once per year. Visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).
- \* **Invest in a locked mailbox** for deliveries of mail. Suspects engaged in this crime usually drive around in neighborhoods and look for mail left at door steps or easily accessible items.

### IF YOU'RE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT YOU SHOULD:

- \*Contact the fraud department of the three major credit bureaus.
- \*Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- \*File a police report. For more information on how to file a report you can contact the Office of Community Affairs at (310) 618-6391 or (310) 618-6392.



### GO GREEN THIS YEAR!

#### RECEIVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

- Conserve paper and reduce waste      -Save your City money
- Receive more frequent crime bulletins that cannot be mailed, but can be sent by email

**Sign up today! It takes less than a minute:**

Email your name and address to [jbuentgen@torrnet.com](mailto:jbuentgen@torrnet.com)