



# Torrance Police Department Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 56

January to March 2013

**Happy New Year from your Community Affairs Team!!!**

It is hard to believe that 2012 is now behind us, but as we enter 2013, we would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy New Year! As all of you are aware, 2012 provided us with many challenges, but with those challenges came opportunities for us to enhance the service we provide to the citizens of Torrance.

Reducing crime is our primary goal, but we realize we can't do it alone. We rely on you to be the eyes and ears for us, that's why we recognize the importance of Neighborhood Watch and the importance of community base crime prevention efforts.

Thank you for your participation in Neighborhood Watch, for choosing to be a part of the solution to crime reduction, for caring about your neighborhood and neighbors, and for your decision to work with us as partners. We appreciate each and every one of you and wish you a GREAT 2013!!



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## From the Detective Division.... PIGEON DROP SCAMS



**DETAILS:** Summarized below are some of the scams that have been reported to the Torrance Police Department in recent years; they are known as Pigeon Drop Scams. While the specifics vary crime to crime, the commonalities include mostly older female victims being approached in commercial settings (stores and parking lots) by a first suspect, then a second who appears not to know the first, but is actually working in concert with him or her, offering to share in large sums of found or inherited money or lottery winnings and being asked to show proof of

their honesty and trustworthiness by putting their own collateral or "good faith" money and/or jewelry with which the suspects disappear after asking the victim to go into a lawyer's office, a store for an over-the-counter medication or back into the bank. Remember: "If it sounds too good to be true..."

In one incident, the victim was approached by a suspect outside a restaurant on the northeast corner of Torrance and Hawthorne. The suspect spoke limited English and claimed to have won a lottery of \$362,000.00, but was from Brazil and did not have a Social Security number. A second suspect, posing as a passerby, assisted with translation and the victim was promised a 25% cut of the winnings. Accompanied in his vehicle by the suspects, he proceeded to make three withdrawals for a total of \$35,000 from his bank account in three cities. Upon returning to his vehicle after making the withdrawal in Torrance, the victim agreed to buy medicine at the neighboring **RALPH'S** for one of the suspects who had become ill. When the victim returned with the medicine to his vehicle, the suspects along with the victim's money were gone.

In another, the suspect approached the victim outside the **ALBERTSON'S** at Artesia/Western, told the victim she found a bag of money and that she needed assistance in finding the owner. The suspect made several phone calls to a male who advised the victim there were \$153,000 cash and nude pictures of children in the bag and that if no one claimed the bag, the victim would receive a finder's fee worth \$63,000. The victim drove the female suspect to the **MCDONALD'S** at 182nd/ Crenshaw followed by several banks and eventually **CITIBANK** at 18505 Western where the elderly victim withdrew \$15,756 in "good faith" money to be put with the finder's fee. As the victim drove the female suspect to another location following her cash withdrawal, the female suspect stated she had to use the restroom and directed the victim to drive to **WENDY'S** on Western Ave. Once there, the victim parked her vehicle and the suspect went inside the restaurant with all the money, but never returned.

Those are just a few examples so **DON'T BECOME A VICTIM!!!!**

Call the Torrance Police Department at 310-328-3456 if you encounter any suspicious activity like this.

## 2012 Holiday Toy Drive was a success!!!

Thank you for your toy donations this year to our Annual Police and Fire Holiday Toy Drive! With your help we were able to reach out and help many families in need within our community this year. So many children and families were touched by the generosity from our citizens and businesses. We couldn't have done it without your help!!



## Home Security Inspections

Whether you are new to Torrance or a long time resident, this free service will prove invaluable. We will come to you and conduct an on-site custom security inspection of your home or apartment at your convenience. You will be given information and training on the most effective locks, alarm systems and lighting specific to your home and your area. You will receive a written evaluation of the improvements you can make to increase security without making your home a fortress. The inspection takes approximately 30 minutes of your time, but will pay huge dividends in the physical security and in your peace of mind. Additionally, certain improvements may reduce your homeowner's insurance premium. This service is provided free of charge to Torrance residents. To schedule your Home Security Inspection call (310) 618-6391 or e-mail your request to: [Communityaffairs@torranceca.gov](mailto:Communityaffairs@torranceca.gov)

TORRANCE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

*Just a heads up.... The next Partners In Policing class will start in April. If you are interested in participating in class #31 you may sign up on our website in March.*

**Upcoming Events**



**“Seniors Don’t Be Scammed!”**

The next “Seniors Don’t Be Scammed will be held in late March (date to be announced)  
10:00am- 12:00 noon.

Seniors, caregivers, family & friends are invited to learn about the latest scams.

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Community Meeting Room  
*Light refreshments will be served, No RSVP necessary*

For more information, contact TPD Community Affairs at  
(310) 618-5735 or visit our website at:

[www.Police.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.Gov)

**Community Safety Training  
Workshop**

The community is invited to attend free safety workshops hosted by the Torrance Police Department. Each workshop is scheduled from 6:00pm to 7:30pm and will take place at the Torrance Police Department (3300 Civic Center Dr.) You may register online at [www.Police.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.Gov) or contact Community Affairs at 310-618-6391. Attendance is limited to the first 35 people who register.

Please note that these safety workshops are for adults only.

Date: Wednesday, February 20th

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Topic: Gang Detail



This class will focus on our Gang Detail and what they do within our community to keep you safe.

**TIP-A-COP**

The **Tip-A-Cop** program is an activity to benefit children and adults with mild to severe mental retardation. Police officers partner with regular servers addressing customer requests such as beverage refills and serving their meals, working hard to EARN donation for a good cause. Customers offer an additional tip beyond the regular server's tip as a donation to South Bay Special Olympics. **100%** of tips/donations received by the Police Officers **goes directly to the South Bay Special Olympics program**. Donations help pay for training, uniforms, transportation, and competition fees. Nothing goes to administrative fees. Last year, the Torrance Police Department raised.....**\$7,868.00**

The next Tip-A-Cop will take place in February or March. Please check our website at [www.Police.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.Gov) to find out the date and location.

