



Philadelphia Collaborative
Violence Prevention Center

www.phillyviolenceprevention.org

Safe Neighborhoods, Safe Lives: Things that Prevent or Reduce the Impact of Violence in the Community

Expert's Tips for Preventing Violence from
the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center
For more information, please visit www.phillyviolenceprevention.org

Environmental Awareness (Tips 54-57)

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54. Light up the neighborhood.

In any neighborhood, some places and times of night are riskier than others. Work with neighbors to make these areas less risky. Install compact fluorescent bulbs in your outside lights so that you can keep them on all night. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Importance: Properly installed lighting is a valuable tool in preventing crime. The type and location of the lighting is important to consider when preventing crime. Several studies state that criminals are less likely to commit crimes in well lit areas than poorly lit ones.

How it helps: Better street lighting helps to reduce crime and the public's fear of crime. It can light up the areas that people might hide in and deter criminals who prefer to work in the dark. People tend to feel safer walking in places where their surroundings are visible.



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References:

Atkins, S., Husain, S., & Storey, A (1991). The Influence of Street Lighting on Crime and Fear of Crime. Crime Prevention Unit Paper No. 28.

Painter, K. (2001). The Financial Benefits of Improved Street Lighting, Based on Crime Reduction. Lighting Research and Technology. 33(1): 3-10.

Ramsey, M. (1991). The Effect of Better Street Lighting on Crime and Fear: A Review. Crime Prevention Unit Paper No. 29.

For more info:

National Crime Prevention Council

<http://www.ncpc.org/>

55. Make art and beauty, not graffiti.

Graffiti is a sign to criminals that they can get away with murder. When you see graffiti on public or private property call the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network at (215) 686-0000 for the City to remove reported graffiti within 10 days. Want to express yourself? Call the Mural Arts Program at 215-685-0750.

Importance: Similar to litter, graffiti is an indication that a neighborhood is becoming lost to crime and gangs. Research states that when left alone, graffiti provides an open invitation for future criminal activity to occur. Also, graffiti can cost taxpayers a tremendous amount of money each year in clean-up costs and decreasing property values.

How it helps: Removing graffiti as soon as it occurs is a great way to prevent reoccurrence. Educating youth on the negative effects from graffiti can have an impact by pushing them towards more constructive ways of displaying their artistic talents.



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References:

- Austin, D. & Sanders, C. (1997). Graffiti and Perceptions of Safety: A Pilot Study Using Photographs and Survey Data. Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Crime. 14(7): 1-25.
- Ferrell, J. (1996). Crimes of style: Urban graffiti and the politics of criminality. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
- Kelling, G. & Coles, C. (1997). Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities. The Free Press.

For more info:

Graffiti Hurts

<http://www.graffitihurts.org/>

National Crime Prevention Council

<http://www.ncpc.org/programs/catalyst-newsletter/catalyst-newsletter/archives/february-2005-catalyst/graffiti-facts-and-figures/>

Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network

<http://www.phila.gov/antigrffiti/>

Philadelphia Mural Arts Program

<http://muralarts.org/>

Creative Arts Workshops for Kids

http://www.caw4kids.org/giraffe_path.html

56. Need help? Ask for City services.

Ask for the services that you or your neighborhood need to stay safe, clean, and healthy: Go to www.phila.gov or call 215-686-1776 to connect with the right city services. If that doesn't work, turn to the people-in-the-know in your neighborhood for help.

Importance: Philadelphia has many protective resources available to be used by its community to ensure their health and safety. It is important that the city's inhabitants know where to turn when they need help or other services.



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How it helps: By taking advantage of the vast resources of the city, you are actively taking on a greater role in improving yourself and the community that you inhabit. Because individuals can directly impact their community through their own actions, it is important that you are invested in maintaining your safety and health. This can provide benefits for the entire community.

References:

Brown, B., Perkin, D., & Brown, G. (2004). Incivilities, Place Attachment, and Crime: Block and Individual Effects. Journal of Environmental Psychology. 24(3): 359-371.

Kipke, M., et al. (1997). Street Youth, Their Peer Group Affiliation, and Differences According to Their Residential Status Subsistence Patterns and Uses of Services. Adolescence. 32: 655-669.

For more info:

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

<http://www.clsphila.org/Content.aspx?section=Get%20Legal%20Help>

Greater Philadelphia Commercial Recycling Council

<http://www.gpcrc.com/index.asp>

Recycling Alliance of Philadelphia

<http://www.recyclenowphiladelphia.org/#>

Youth Empowerment Health Project

<http://www.y-hep.org/>

57. Bash the trash. Keep your neighborhood clean.

Trash on your street is a sign for criminals. Take your trash out at the right times on the right days. Secure your trash to prevent it from spilling into the street. If you see someone illegally dumping or not taking care of their trash, call the Sweep Officers at 215-685-4275.



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Importance: There is a direct correlation between high crime rates and neighborhoods that have a lot of litter. Many times, criminals look for signs where committing crime will entail little or no risk. When criminals see accumulated trash it is a sign to them that a neighborhood does not care and is not watching out for one another.

How it helps: The impact of having clean neighborhoods goes beyond pure aesthetics, and can actually have an impact on preventing crime. It helps to eliminate the perception of being negligent in the awareness of crime.

References:

- Brown, B., Perkin, D., & Brown, G. (2004). Incivilities, Place Attachment, and Crime: Block and Individual Effects. Journal of Environmental Psychology. 24(3): 359-371.
- Kelling, G. & Coles, C. (1997). *Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities*. The Free Press.

For more info:

Keep Philadelphia Beautiful

<http://www.keepphiladelphiabeautiful.org/index.html>

Recycling

<http://www.phillyrecyclingpays.com/>

S.W.E.E.P. Streets Philadelphia

<http://www.phila.gov/STREETS/sweep.html>