GULFPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BUSINESS WATCH

Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the "neighbors looking out for neighbors" concept to the commercial level, creating a partnership between business, law enforcement, and other organizations that represent business interests. The Business Watch philosophy is straightforward, take control of what happens in your business community and lessen your chances of becoming a victim.

Business Watches actively reduces and prevents crime through cooperation and education. Programs vary according to need; however, successful groups adhere to these fundamental steps:

- Promote communication and understanding between law enforcement and business.
- Encourage and enhance cooperation among merchants.
- Teach merchants to crime-proof their own properties, watch over neighboring businesses and document and report suspicious activity.
- Develop a telephone tree and/or email distribution list to quickly disseminate information about area crime.
- Develop signals to activate in adjacent businesses when someone needs help.

BENEFITS OF JOINING BUSINESS WATCH

- ✓ Security inspections of your business property
- ✓ Information on video surveillance equipment
- ✓ Community Business Safety Seminars
- ✓ Coordinated assistance with other City departments as needed
- ✓ Better communication and interaction with the Gulfport Police Department's Community Relation's Division
- ✓ Business Watch advisories on crime trends in your area
- ✓ Network with other area businesses
- ✓ Offer employee training and education
- ✓ Garner publicity and community goodwill for your establishment.

WHY JOIN BUSINESS WATCH?

The Business Watch program offers the following **free** benefits:

- ✓ Registration of your business with the Police Department so we can contact you immediately if there is a problem at your business after regular business hours
- ✓ Help in dealing with panhandlers and other loiterers who scare off customers
- ✓ Security inspections of your business by Police Department experts
- ✓ Personal safety presentations for your employees
- ✓ Guest speakers for business association meetings
- ✓ Invitations to Business Watch seminars on such topics as Robbery, Forgery/Fraud, Shoplifting, and Identify Theft
- ✓ E-mail notifications of crime trends affecting your business

HOW TO JOIN:

There is no cost to join. Simply complete the Business Watch registration form and mail it to the address on the form or fax it in. The information will be kept on file, resulting in a more efficient service when you call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Gulfport Police Department
Community Relations Division
2220 15th Street
Gulfport, MS 39501
Office 228-868-5703
Fax 228-868-5837

BUSINESS WATCH REGISTRATION FORM

Please **PRINT LEGIBLY** the following information:

Business Name: _____ Date:_____

Complete Business Address: _____
(including zip code)

Business Mailing Address: _____

Business Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Business Owner's Name: _____

Business Owner's Home Telephone Number: _____

Business Email Address: _____

Type of Business: _____

Manager's Name: _____

Normal Business Hours: _____

24-Hour Emergency Contacts:

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Mail or Fax completed form to the address/number shown at the top of the form.