Bowie, Maryland 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 reduce and prevent crime through cooperation and education. 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 phone tree/email distribution list to quickly disseminate information about area crime
- Develop signals to activate in adjacent businesses when someone needs help

BOWIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Phone
240-544-5700
TIP LINE: 240-544-5770

Website
www.cityofbowie.org/police

Email
COPS@cityofbowie.org

BUSINESS WATCH

Watch Groups encourage the free exchange of information and crime prevention techniques between the law enforcement community and local businesses.
WHAT IS BUSINESS WATCH

Business watch is a partnership between the business community and local authorities, the police department, and other organizations that represent business interests.

Business Watches enable individual businesses to take an active part in preventing and reducing crime through sharing information, raising awareness, and improving communications through meetings and a functional "calling tree".

MISSION STATEMENT

The Bowie Police Department Business Watch program was established to promote a safe environment for people to work, shop, and live in the City of Bowie. This is accomplished by businesses and law enforcement working together to reduce crime in the workplace.

The primary objective is to educate business owners and their employees to recognize risks and crime. The secondary objective is to take steps in reporting and preventing crime accurately.

HOW DOES IT WORK

Our Business Watch is modeled after the highly successful Neighborhood Watch Program, establishing a formal communication network among businesses in a specified area.

Members in each area are alerted to the potential of crime and current crime trends. Members are encouraged to form a "community" that watches out for one another. Our commitment as law enforcement is to provide Business Watch members with information and crime prevention training.

Members will be educated on how to recognize and report criminal/suspicious activity. Many other topics of crime prevention and safety issues will also be addressed. The Business Watch is not meant to replace your current security system or plan, but rather augment these and enhance the overall awareness and safety of the business, its employees, and customers.

Report suspicious activity 24/7: 240-544-5700