

## Community Strategies

**Coordinated landlord communication helps reduce crime and foster trust.** Sharing information on troublesome residents can prevent evicted tenants from moving to a nearby building. Regular communication can create the opportunity for landlords to put informal pressure on each other to maintain their buildings.

Neighborhood groups or organizations can help implement neighborhood programs, clean-up events, or amenities like neighborhood trash receptacles.

## Contacts

### The Department of General Services

Report concerns regarding street lights and municipal or building code enforcement **434-CITY** Monday- Friday, 9AM to 5PM.

Report a non-emergency incident like truancy or gang related activities to the **Police Department:** (518) 438-4000.

Raise larger concerns to your Common Councilmember. The Common Council meets the first and third Monday of each month in the Common Council Chambers in City Hall. For more information call: (518)434-5087. More information regarding City code and services can be found at [www.AlbanyNY.gov](http://www.AlbanyNY.gov)

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Capital District Transportation Committee



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21 Lodge Street, Albany, New York 12207



# Neighborhood Safety Through Environmental Design - A Citizen's Guide



# What Can You Do To Improve Safety?

## Safe Neighborhoods

Real or perceived, crime affects the quality of life for residents. The popular “broken windows theory” is based on the belief that areas appearing to be neglected and lacking community cohesion are magnets for delinquent behavior. This may be represented by litter, graffiti, regular disorderly conduct and other indicators of a transient community.

There are simple strategies to help deter crime in your neighborhood. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are strategies that modify the existing environment to help reduce crime. This popular method allows home and business owners, as well as renters the opportunity to create a visible and active street. Visibility and private vs. public space markers help to create a safer neighborhood for residents and visitors.

The term ‘placemaking’ refers to targeted actions that result in creating a neighborhood identity. There are many strategies involved including neighborhood branding, uniform tree/flower planting or signage, focal areas for community activities that are visible to the public, and hosting regular events.

The idea behind these strategies is that community engagement creates a more interactive and intimate community which indicates resident ownership and intolerance to crime or delinquent behavior.

## Keep Areas Well Lit



Consider installing wall-mounted lights outside of doorways and outdoor motion lights for walkways and backyard access areas. Solar & fluorescent lights are inexpensive ways to create natural surveillance.

## Maintenance

While it is the responsibility of property owners to maintain their home or business, there are ways everyone can pitch-in. Tenant participation and responsibility can be encouraged through rent incentives as well as incorporated into lease agreements. Hold business owners more accountable and encourage them to keep trash receptacles near stores.



## Claim Ownership of Your Street



There are subtle ways to claim ownership of your community. Sidewalk chalk art, bulletin boards, and decorative elements tell passersby walking through a block that families or concerned residents are present.

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

### Promote Natural Surveillance

- Illuminate open areas and exterior doors.
- Clear obstructions from windows to allow you to observe your property from inside your home.
- Keep shrubbery short (under 3ft) to create visibility and remove blind spots or hiding places.



### Create Physical Barriers to Access

- Close off dead-end spaces and private areas with fences, gates, or landscaping.
- Install and use dead-bolt locks on exterior doors.

### Reinforce Private/Public Areas

- Define your property and private areas with plantings, ornaments, and yard decorations.
- Make your street address clearly visible from the street.

### Maintain Building and Property

- Prune tree branches (keep 7ft off the ground) and shrubs short (under 3ft).
- Keep Property and building exterior clean and tend to needed repairs.
- Frequently empty trash receptacles and report code violations.

