

October 31, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**"Business Watch" training session next week**

The Springfield Police Department (SPD) will be conducting a Business Watch training session from 3-5 p.m. on Nov. 4. The session will be held at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St.

An active Business Watch enables businesses to take an active role in preventing and reducing criminal activity on their properties through information sharing, raising awareness, and learning how to identify and recognize criminal activities. The goal of the program is to encourage businesses to take proactive measures to minimize the threat of criminal activity and criminal behavior. This can be accomplished through training and building relationships with surrounding business entities and the community. The program uses the concepts and strategies of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

The SPD's Business Watch program can make a significant difference with the participating business districts in the City of Springfield. The training session is provided to businesses free of charge, and the SPD encourages all business owners and management to attend. Those interested can contact the SPD Crime Prevention Unit at 417-874-2113.

The SPD has received numerous, positive responses since the implementation of the new program. Seating is limited, so please contact the SPD and become part of the Business Watch!

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