

MURPHY'S LAW
TOWN WATCHER
SPRING 2001 ISSUE

WORDS TO LIVE BY, 8 YEARS LATER.....

IN A TIME OF CHALLENGE PEOPLE ALWAYS MANAGE A WAY TO MEET THAT CHALLENGE. IT IS NECESSARY TO USE THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR ACTIONS, OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CITY. THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS WITHOUT SACRIFICE; NO GAIN WITHOUT WORK. THEREFORE, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE TO BE SECURE FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE YOUTH. IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND SISTERLY EFFECTIVENESS, OUR ABILITY TO RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS IS A TESTIMONY TO OUR COLLECTIVE CONCERN FOR EACH OTHER. THIS CONCERN TRANSLATES INTO ACTION.

OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST YOU HAVE MOVED US TO LOOK AT COMMUNITY POLICING TO REALITY AND PRACTICAL USE; WE MUST LOOK AT MAKING IT OPERATIONS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND A WAY OF LIFE FOR ALL PHILADELPHIAN'S. COMMUNITY POLICING AT ITS BEST IS CRIME PREVENTION. POLICING HAS MEANT SEPARATION RATHER THAN INCLUSION. IT HAS IGNORED MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ITS ROLE IN CRIME PREVENTION. WE FURTHER THE CONCEPT THAT A HELPLESS COMMUNITY IS IN NEED AND THE POLICE ARE THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS OF ANY COMMUNITY. THE PHILOSOPHY OF COMMUNITY POLICING CHALLENGES THE CULTURE OF POLICING AND CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THAT IT REQUIRES PARTICIPATION BY ALL PARTIES IN POLICING THE COMMUNITY. AS WE PUT THIS CONCEPT INTO PRACTICE, WE OFFER SECURITY TO THE MEN AND WOMEN, WHO ON A DAILY BASIS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES. THERE CAN BE NO CODE OF SILENCE, NO WALLS OF SEPARATION IN PROMOTING CRIME PREVENTION. THAT CODE FURTHERS THE "US VERSUS THEM" MENTALITY THAT CRIPPLES OUR EFFORTS.

THE MOVE TOWARD COMMUNITY POLICING WILL IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER. THIS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TOWN WATCH GROUPS. THE STRONGER THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THE BETTER THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN IT. WHEN WE ENGAGE ALL CITIZENS IN POLICING THEMSELVES, WE ARE EMPOWERED TO PREVENT CRIME AND THE VICTIMIZATION OF OUR COMMUNITIES. COMMUNITY POLICING IS A PHILOSOPHY WORTH WORKING FOR AND PUTTING INTO PRACTICE. TOWN WATCH IS YOUR FIRST STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

ANTHONY MURPHY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF POTW (NOW KNOWN AS TWIS)
AND A
PROPONENT OF COMMUNITY POLICING