

# **Town Watch Integrated Services Guidelines**

## I. Mission Statement

The purpose of the Town Watch program is to help in the reduction of crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Town Watch volunteers are beacons of light in improving the relationship and the communication between our police officers and the citizens of Philadelphia.

## II. Guidelines

Town Watch activities vary from organization to organization. However, in the performance of the organizational activities, there are guidelines which must be met.

1. When performing any Town Watch activity or function, NO WEAPONS of any kind are to be carried (or used).
2. At no time should a citizen volunteer forget that he/she is not a police officer.
3. While patrolling your community, at no time should you put yourself or your partner in any danger by attempting to chase (pursue) either on foot or in vehicle or apprehend a suspected criminal.
4. You should not detain forcibly or otherwise someone you suspect of a crime.
5. Emergency lights are not to be used on your vehicle.
6. No badges are to be used in an effort to stop or address someone.
7. Do not approach a scene of a crime unless directed to do so by a police officer.
8. All traffic laws must be obeyed.
9. Never get into a verbal confrontation with Police Officers who respond to your call for service. The Office professionally evaluates each incident. Do not argue the outcome.
10. Town Watch members may observe activity occurring in any public place. Town Watch members may go upon private property (or enter vehicles) only with the invitation of the owner of the property or the person in control of the property.
11. Town Watch members should not consume any alcoholic beverages including beer, or use any medicine or drug that may prevent them from functioning normally.
12. Town Watch members should be willing to testify at trials, appear in court if necessary and support victims of crime or other Town Watch members who may need assistance.
13. Never belittle a Town Watch member or volunteer.
14. Do not play favorites within your organization.
15. No handcuffs or any detaining equipment or device is allowed during Town Watch patrol.
16. Utility belts and other equipment that are suggestive of a different role are prohibited.
17. Town Watch members will have a criminal background check before they are certified.