

HELP US, HELP YOU “Partnering to make communities safer”

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Executive Director

Recently, I was reviewing the Worcester Police crime stats for all of our WHA communities in comparison to other neighborhoods in the City. I was thrilled to see that our WHA developments still fare better than other parts of Worcester and our crime rates continue to decline.

I truly believe that this has been accomplished with the strength of our partnerships with the WPD, City and State officials, our WHA staff and most importantly... YOU, our residents. It takes all of us to work together towards the same goal in order to keep our communities safe and enjoyable for all.

Recently, I attended a resident meeting, where a couple of residents had expressed some concern about safety in their community. The examples they provided were not necessarily criminal, but rather disturbances from other residents or guests, such as loud noise, arguing, or constant traffic into the building. The residents wanted some guidance on what could be done to resolve these issues.

I suggested the following:

Criminal Activity – If you witness a crime, call 911 immediately. Do not call the WHA maintenance or management offices as we are NOT first responders to crimes. After you call 911, you can call your Housing Manager or Public Safety to provide the details so we can follow up.

Non-Criminal Activity – For incidents that are not criminal that you want to report, please contact your management office or Public Safety. If you call after business hours, please leave a message.

Be Specific – When you are reporting an incident, it is very important that you tell us the date, time and exact location where the incident occurred. This makes our investigation go faster.

Don't Wait – Call us the minute the incident occurs. In some cases, we may have video cameras capturing the incident. However, if you wait to report it, there is a chance we may lose the video.

Don't Assume – Sometimes residents assume the WHA is not addressing their concern because the issue continues to occur. Please keep reporting the incident each time it happens as this allows us to create a history of the issues and makes lease enforcement easier.

Attend Resident Meetings – Please make sure you attend the monthly crime watch meetings to let all of us know how things are going. The WPD and WHA attend these meetings and we need you there.

I look forward to continuing to build our partnerships. There are always areas where we can do our jobs better and I welcome the feedback. However, it does take the cooperation of all our partners in making your home safe and enjoyable.

Please continue to be part of the solution. Let us know what we are doing well and where we can improve, but above all, please be our partner. Let's maintain our safety success through your vigilance and involvement and be the envy of other housing communities.

Thank you and I hope you have a great start to your summer!