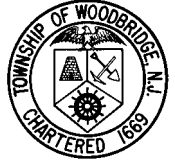


# NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



**MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC**

**1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

Phone: (732) 634-4500 ♦ Fax: (732) 602-6016

Web: <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*January 30, 2008*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*John R. Hagerty*

*Mayor's Office of Communications*

*732-602-6039*

## ***Mayor John E. McCormac Announces Crime Prevention Initiative Geared to Increase Safety & Security at Township Multi-Family Residential and Apartment Complexes***

***Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program Targets Environmental Design... Manager Training... Community Awareness... to Reduce Crime & Increase Public Safety***



**David Weissbracht, Atlantic Realty Development Corporation, joins Mayor John E. McCormac, Council President Rick Dalina and WPD Deputy Chief Phil DiNicola to announce the Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program. The Woodbridge Police Department is partnering with the owners/operators and managers of the Township's largest apartment complexes and multi-family dwellings as part of the Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program geared to reduce crime and increase safety and security at high-density residential housing facilities and apartment complexes.**

Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that the Woodbridge Police Department will partner with the owners/operators and managers of the Township's largest apartment complexes and multi-family dwellings as part of a new initiative geared to reduce crime and increase safety and security at high-density residential housing facilities.

"This initiative – the Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program – is a true partnership between the Woodbridge Police Department and the owners/operators of apartment complexes and is designed to dramatically increase personal safety for tenants and visitors, managers and landlords," Mayor McCormac said. "By working together to increase safety at apartment buildings and multi-family facilities, we are creating a stable tenant base – which is good for business and the Township's economy – while at the same time reducing the need for Township police officers to respond to emergency calls for service, thus reducing public safety-related costs."

According to Woodbridge Police Chief William Trenery, Woodbridge is the first community in Middlesex County to implement the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Program. CPTED, recognized by the United States Department of Justice, has been implemented in communities across the country and has reported positive results in reducing crime and improving public safety at high-density apartment and housing facilities.

Under the direction of Woodbridge Police Department Captain Robert Hubner, police security experts will provide a Three-Part Crime Prevention Training Program to apartment managers and staff. The program will include an "environmental survey," management training for realty managers and staff, and community awareness. The "environmental survey" will focus on the physical layout of the apartment complex and will evaluate:

- The effectiveness, density and placement of outside lighting;
- Identify dark, shadowy and potentially dangerous areas;
- Identify need to remove or trim shrubbery and ground cover to no more than three feet in height;
- Evaluate effectiveness of window and door locks;
- Evaluate availability of security devices such as "peep" holes in interior doors designed to allow for the identification of visitors;
- Determine the visibility of address numbers; and
- Ensure compliance with security, fire and building codes.

Management training will include:

- Crime prevention and risk management procedures;
- Property management and police relations;
- Rental applications, screening and background checks;
- Lease and lease addendums procedures; and
- Overall benefits of the program.

As part of community awareness, the Woodbridge Police Department has established a special hotline for residents to report suspicious or criminal activity. The Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program Crime Tip Hotline is: **732-855-TIPS (8477)**.

Municipal Council President Rick Dalina noted that the Woodbridge Municipal Council unanimously passed a Resolution on January 15, 2008 supporting the Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program and authorizing the Mayor's Office and the Woodbridge Police Department to implement the crime prevention program.

“The Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program will increase the demand for safe and secure rental units which will result in a more stable tenant base. And, it is anticipated that after the program is implemented, there will be lower maintenance and repairs costs for property owners and managers with increased safety and security,” said Council President Dalina.

Joining Mayor McCormac, Council President Dalina and Chief Trenery to announce the program were David and Jack Halpern, owners of Atlantic Realty Corporation – the largest operator of apartment and multi-family residential facilities in Woodbridge Township. Atlantic Realty operates Florida Grove Manor, Woodbridge Terrace, Gill Lane Village, Green Hollow, Woodbridge Village, Colonial Gardens, Cloverleaf, Forest View and Evergreen apartment complexes. The managers and staff of Atlantic Realty properties received the two-hour training program and are actively participating in the Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program. Additionally, Capitol Management Corporation, owners/operators of Bristol Apartments, Hamilton Apartments, Kensington Gardens and Menlo Park Apartments have indicated their support for the initiative and have agreed to participate in the Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program.

Councilman James Carroll said that the Woodbridge Multi-Family Crime Prevention Program is a “positive step in the ongoing effort to prevent crime and provide a safe and secure residential setting for Woodbridge Township residents. I am pleased to support the program and look forward to the participation of all Township apartment facilities and multi-family residential dwellings.”