

Business Design Matters

A business design, including layout, lighting, building, and maintenance, can influence the prevalence of crime and fear, and thus impact residents' physical activity levels. Responding to the smaller problems of missing lighting, broken windows, trash, graffiti, and other nuisances can curb an escalation toward bigger problems.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is a strategy to improve safety by making a place less attractive to criminal activity through environmental improvements.

The following principles are generally regarded as ideal to create an effective program.

Territorial Reinforcement: the use of physical attributes that express ownership, such as fences, signage, landscaping, lighting, etc.

Natural Surveillance: Any architectural design that enhances the chance that a potential offender will be, or might be seen, is a form of natural surveillance.

Natural Access Control: Access controls include creating a sense of turf, but it focuses on entry and exit points into buildings.

Maintenance: If a property is well maintained, it shows that management, or the owner cares for and will defend the property against crime.

Ciro's Restaurant, Indio CA



Ciro's Restaurant is a member of the Indio business community who has successfully implemented CPTED strategies and principles. In doing so Ciro's has avoided problems with homeless people and experienced a decline in needed Police calls for services.

Join The Business Task Force

A Task Force of Indio Businesses Task Force was established to create a safe, secure environment for businesses, employees and shoppers. It involves business owners getting to know each other and working together in an active role to reduce the impacts of homelessness on the business community.

Please contact the Office of Community Safety at **760-391-4037** to join the Business Task Force.



*"Our Community...
Our Commitment"*



Homelessness Impacts on Businesses

Indio Police Department

46-800 Jackson St.

Indio, CA 92201

Phone: 760-391-4057

Fax: 760-391-4036

www.indiopd.org

Dealing with Homeless People

Homelessness is an extremely complex social problem that impacts the quality of life in our community. There are no easy solutions.

The IPD and elected officials in the County and City recognize that there is a fine line between homelessness as a social issue and a criminal issue. Many homeless are on the street because of substance abuse, mental illness or both. To assist the City provide better service to this at-risk population, the IPD has created Quality of Life Team. QOL is available to assist the community with homeless-related issues. Its phone number is **760-625-7954**.

While being homeless is not a crime, many kinds of public conduct are illegal and should be reported to the IPD. These include being intoxicated, loitering, prowling, fighting, trespassing, aggressive panhandling, soliciting, urinating/defecating, consuming alcoholic beverages in certain public places, behaving in a threatening manner and more.

If you have an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

For 24-hour non-emergencies,

dial 760-391-4051

Avoiding Problems

The following will help you avoid problems with homeless people.

- Avoid confrontations and maintain a safe distance.
- Do not offer food or money. It may encourage more panhandling. If you are inclined to help the homeless, it is better to contribute to local charities, missions, food banks or social service organizations that assist the needy.
- Do not permit anyone to camp or loiter on your property.
- Do not allow anyone to store shopping carts, bedding or other personal belongings on your property.
- Restrict access to sidewalk overhangs, alcoves, or other areas protected from inclement weather.
- Lock or remove handles from water spigots.
- Keep trash dumpsters locked when not being filled or emptied.
- Secure outside storage sheds or containers.
- Lock or turn off exterior power outlets.

Avoiding Problems Continued

- Lock gates after hours.
- Install motion-activated exterior lighting after hours.
- Trim landscaping to eliminate hiding places.
- Keep property free of trash, litter, junk, etc.
- Design public amenities to discourage misuse. For example, shape benches and other seating to be comfortable for sitting but not for sleeping.
- Establish, post, and enforce rules of conduct for public use of private property. Include signs of nighttime curfews and prohibitions of loitering, illegal lodging, drinking alcoholic beverages and drug activities. The signs should state that persons engaged in prohibited conduct will be asked to leave the property and that failure to cease the behavior or leave the property will result in a call to the IPD.

The IPD offers free security inspections to all businesses within Indio. If you would like an inspection of your business please contact the Office of Community Safety at **760-391-4037**.